TECaN Embarks on NAS Advocacy Campaign

Colby Day, TECaN Chair
Ashley Lucke and Hayley Friedman, TECaN Advocacy Chairs

TECaN (Trainees and Early Career Neonatologists) is making its debut in advocacy in 2018 with the #NavigatingNAS Campaign! In the setting of the current opioid/substance use epidemic, TECaN is contributing to national efforts to educate providers and families to advance neonatal practice in these challenging situations. The #NavigatingNAS Campaign will feature four quarters, each devoted to a different aspect of NAS (neonatal abstinence syndrome). Each quarter will provide educational materials for clinical practice and resources for families in addition to webinars, podcasts, and social media outreach. We are excited to partner with multiple organizations for this campaign including AAP Federal Affairs, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), March of Dimes, and many others.

The first quarter, "Understanding the Opioid Epidemic", will provide an overview of key historical and legislative events related to NAS. Keep an eye out for resources such as a timeline of major events in the opioid epidemic, NAS Fact Sheets and a template for writing a letter to your congressperson. This quarter's webinar will feature NAS legislative experts discussing how federal policy affects the care of infants diagnosed with NAS.

Quarter two, titled “Motherhood and Opioids”, will focus on the maternal and prenatal aspect of NAS. Campaign content will aim to reduce the stigma of substance use disorders during pregnancy and educate neonatal providers of the complexities of prenatal maternal management. In line with these goals, this quarter will provide a prenatal consult guide for neonatologists to guide prenatal anticipatory guidance for mothers with substance use disorders.

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To supplement this resource, watch for webinars focused on obstetric care and health policy regarding mothers with substance use during pregnancy, as well as highlights of programs around the country with collaborative obstetric and neonatal programs to address NAS.

In the third quarter, “NAS – Where Are We Now?”, the Campaign will educate and empower providers and families to gain further insight into the past, present, and future of NAS medical management. Specifically, this quarter will highlight withdrawal scoring systems, non-pharmacologic approaches to NAS and share an inside perspective from families to personalize the complexity of NAS in the NICU. A featured resource will be a set of digital pamphlets designed for parents, nurses and clinicians. Quarter three’s webinars will contrast treatment approaches to NAS including pharmacologic and Eat, Sleep, Console.

The final fourth quarter, “NAS - Beyond Discharge Home”, aims to improve the discharge process for families with infants affected by NAS by providing educational resources and discharge tools for clinicians. Associated resources with this quarter include a NAS Discharge Guideline Template, educational pamphlets for families and caretakers on short- and long-term expectations after discharge (including neurodevelopmental aspects of NAS) as well as an animated video about NAS. A unique component of quarter four will be materials specifically geared to foster families caring for infants with NAS. Finally, this quarter will host two webinars. The first on statewide early intervention programs to increase awareness of these important collaboratives, and the second will feature a multidisciplinary panel of clinicians and support services discussing the challenges in care of NAS-affected infants from birth through childhood.

TECaN is excited to both formally venture into the advocacy arena but also to contribute to awareness of the current opioid and substance use crisis in the U.S. We welcome your support as we embark on this campaign and hope to benefit clinicians, families, foster parents/caregivers, and most importantly, babies! Look forward to the official roll out of the #NavigatingNAS Campaign at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition in Orlando this November 2018!

2018 Virginia Apgar Award Recipient
Dr. Saroj Saigal

Jon E. Tyson MD, FAAP

Dr. Saroj Saigal, Professor Emerita at McMaster University, is the 2018 Virginia Apgar Award recipient. She is a former President of the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine of the Canadian Paediatric Society and a recipient of such awards as the Landmark Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Distinguished Neonatologist Award from the Canadian Paediatric Society, and the Douglas K. Richardson Award for Perinatal and Pediatric Research from the Society for Pediatric Research (2011).

Dr. Saigal is most renowned for her longitudinal assessment of the long-term outcomes and health-related quality of life of extremely low birth weight (ELBW) infants assessed from their own perspective as well as that of their healthcare providers, teachers, and parents. Having followed these former ELBW infants into their 30s, her follow-up research is arguably the most meaningful ever conducted. It has advanced the scientific understanding of how the long-term outcomes of high-risk neonates should be conceptualized, assessed, and interpreted. It has also provided an evidence base for a richer, more nuanced, and more reassuring and optimistic view of the achievable outcomes of extremely premature infants, a view based partly on her book, Preemie Voices, in which the middle-aged men and women she has followed describe their lives, aspirations, challenges, and achievements. This book and the widely viewed on-line video documentary provide moving testimony to their adaptability, resilience, determination, and from many, satisfaction in achieving more than was ever expected of them.

An invited speaker in more than 25 countries, Dr. Saigal has had a major influence on obstetricians, pediatricians, and others around the world. The lasting effects of this influence is particularly evident in the success of the Adults Born Preterm International Collaboration (APIC) that she co-founded and has helped lead since 2011. APIC links the efforts of investigators in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand in assessing the consequences of preterm birth and perinatal care on adult outcomes.

2018 Avroy Fanaroff Neonatology Education Award Recipient
Dr. David Adamkin

Gil Martin MD, FAAP

Dr. David Adamkin is Division Director of Neonatology and is Associate Director of the Fellowship Training Program at the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY. He is well known for his active participation on many
American Academy of Pediatrics committees and has been a member of the Committee on the Fetus and Newborn (COFN), other American Academy Task Forces including the Task Force on Neonatal Encephalopathy and Cerebral Palsy, consultant to the March of Dimes, and is on the Board of Directors of the International Neonatal Association and is President of the South Eastern Association of Neonologists.

Dr. Adamkin is an academic and clinical neonatologist with an expertise in neonatal nutrition. His book entitled, Guide for Nutrition in Premature Infants, is a seminal publication which is widely used by all working within the field of neonatology. In addition, he has produced a screening and management tool for postnatal glucose homeostasis which is utilized in neonatal intensive care units today.

Over the past five years he has been a frequent distinguished visiting professor, both nationally and internationally, and has received an extensive number of awards which include the University of Louisville President’s Distinguished Faculty Award and, in 2009, he received a Honoris Causa Doctorus from the Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poland. He was one of the founders of the Kentucky Perinatal Association and remains on their Board of Directors. He serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Perinatology and also reviews manuscripts for The Journal of Pediatrics, Pediatrics, Pediatric Research and Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Adamkin has very close ties with the Polish Academy of Science and has traveled and lectured extensively in Poland and has invited faculty from Poland to the University of Louisville. He has written two Polish textbooks on nutrition, and contributed to the first neonatal textbook published in Poland. This particular activity speaks to the international flavor of Dr. Adamkin’s unique achievements which embellish his educational activities. In addition, he continues to be a presenter at the American Academy of Pediatrics NeoPREP seminar and has also presented at the NEO Review Course and Hot Topics in Neonatology.

**View from the Chair**

**John A. F. Zupancic MD, ScD, FAAP**

The quality improvement world has a saying that we all have two jobs – to provide care, and to improve the way that we provide care. This is usually applied to processes and programs at the NICU level, but it is also highly relevant to us all as individuals. Stagnation in our own personal knowledge is hopefully something that every clinician will want to avoid. The unexamined practice is not worthy of our patients. Unfortunately, the ways in which we establish and maintain competence are dated and, if not completely ineffective, are at least inefficient. Saving up pennies in our discretionary accounts for a once-a-year conference might yield a few nuggets of practice change, valuable networking, and a few nice dinners, but it is unlikely to allow us to keep up to date. If you’re more of a homebody, consider that reading one randomized trial a week will leave you 500 papers behind in four years.

In its most recent Strategic Plan, the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine identified four strategic domains to guide our activities: Education, Quality, Advocacy, and Health of the Section and Member Value. This winter, we ran a grant competition to solicit ideas from membership to further aims within these domains. We received a number of excellent applications and, after an intensive and closely-ranked selection process centered on innovation, priority, feasibility, scalability, sustainability, testability, and stewardship, we were happy to be able to provide resources to three of these. Interestingly, all three of the funded proposals are of highly innovative programs in the educational domain.

The first is from Heather French and nine of her collaborators at multiple institutions, including Drs. Megan Gray, Rita Dadiz, Susan Izatt, Maria Gilliam-Krakauer, Elizabeth Bonachea, Alison Falck, Allison Payne, Margarita Vasquez, and Lindsay Johnston. Their proposal, “The ONTPD National Neonatology Curriculum Project,” seeks to create, in their words, a high-quality, peer-reviewed, standardized physiology curriculum based on the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) Content Outline for Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine for neonatology trainees that aligns with adult learning theory to improve knowledge retention and application. The output is a series of video modules, each of less than ten minutes in length, on topics such as respiratory distress syndrome. These are designed to be watched before an in-person session and are paired with test questions and facilitator classroom guides. I believe that this flipped classroom model is the future in our specialty, not only for trainees, but also for maintenance of certification. Admirably, the research group is not going to rest on such opinions though; they are planning a randomized trial to test knowledge retention, a first for our field.

The second funded proposal, “Teaching the Principles and Utilization of Evidence-Based Medicine in Neonatology,” is from Dr. Roger Soll and Colleen Ovelman at Cochrane Neonatal. Cochrane is a key resource in neonatology; if you need supporting evidence, read McGuire et al. “What has the Cochrane Collaboration Ever Done for Newborn Infants?” in ADC 2010;95:F2. Unfortunately, the principles of evidence-based medicine and their role in guideline development and quality improvement are inadequately appreciated and taught. The applicants propose to engage young doctors by creating a series of webinars that teach...
Getting to Know... Jose Perez MD, FAAP
District X Representative

Background I attended medical school at Autonomous University of Guadalajara in Mexico. I completed my fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Current Position I am Corporate Medical Director, Research Director, and ECMO Director for Winnie Palmer NICU in Orlando, FL.

Family and Pets I have been married for 35 years and have 3 children, one is an attending neonatologist at the University of Washington and Seattle Children’s Hospital.

What Would People Be Surprised to Learn About You? I actually live in a small working farm, including goats, cattle, and chickens.

Favorite Vacation of All Time Scuba diving and catamaran sailing in Belize.

Best Gift You Ever Received Professionally, I enjoy receiving pictures and letters from our NICU families. The best personal gift I have ever received was a Tesla from my wife.

If You Weren’t a Neonatologist, You Would Be... a teacher and baseball coach.

Best Advice for Early Career Neonatologists Maintain a balanced life.

Hobbies Golf, running, sprint triathlons, cycling, scuba diving, and fishing

What Book(s) Are you Reading Inferno by Dan Brown

Most Important Thing You Have Learned in Your Career Family time is important and critical for eventual happiness.

Best or Favorite Childhood Memory Beach holidays with my entire family.

Your Hidden Talent I can imitate certain singers.

The Best Thing About Where You Live It is very quiet. I can practice golf in my backyard, and I can see all the stars on a clear night.

I've recently been inspired by... my children

Favorite Movie The Godfather

Favorite Way to Relax after a Hard Day Golfing or cycling on a quiet bike trail

Do You Collect Anything? I used to collect baseball cards, but no longer.

Who Would You Like to Swap Lives With For a Day? The President of the United States.
the principles of evidence-based medicine, supplemented by case studies of how to use such evidence to guide practice. Together, these will constitute a boot camp and practical guide for applying the EBM paradigm. Paired with a flipped classroom approach of video modules and journal club, they will also hopefully take the pressure off local faculty to teach state-of-the-art clinical epidemiology to our trainees.

Both of the above are targeted to neonatal clinicians such as MDs, NNP's and RNs. It is equally important that our patients are adequately educated about the programs and processes to keep their children healthy. Drs. Sanjeeet Panda and Maria Leiner of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso submitted an application entitled, “A Multimodal Educational Intervention (MEI) to Improve Follow-up at Neonatal High-Risk Clinic and Parental Empowerment to Identify Developmental Delay in the NICU Graduates.” They propose to create a series of simple cartoon videos and comics to improve health literacy, including developmental milestones through six months of age as well as stress the importance of attendance at follow-up for high-risk infants. They will also assess the impact of these media, relative to conventional parent education, on follow-up rates and recall. Importantly, the intervention addresses the needs of both English- and Spanish-speaking families. Check out some of the foundational work for other conditions at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJzddd7o9Umz3KUS A86MEtQ.

The Committee and I were extremely impressed with the expansive creativity, rigor, obvious attention to the details of our needs in neonatology, and commitment to stewardship of our Section’s resources by all of the applicants. I really wish that we could have funded more of the applications, but consider this a test run. It is revenue from your dues and conference attendance that has made this possible – indeed, an important rationale for the membership – so we wanted to start small. Even at this scale, the successful proposals all will result in deliverables that will be freely and permanently available to the neonatology community. They have significant potential to improve knowledge and change practice, and that is good for babies. Thanks to all who participated, and thanks, as usual, to all of you for your engagement and commitment.

Workshop on Neonatal Perinatal Practice Strategies Summary

Cherrie D. Welch MD, FAAP

The 30th Workshop on Perinatal Practice Strategies was held this spring under its new name, The Workshop on Neonatal Perinatal Practice Strategies, at the beautiful Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. This year, there were even more robust offerings for attendees at different stages of their careers at the Workshop, including programming and networking opportunities for the Trainees and Early Career Neonatologists (TECaN), Middle-Career Neonatologists (MidCaN), and, for the first time, the Well-Established Neonatologists (WECaN) group. Also, the first meeting of the Women in Neonatology (WiN) group was held following the Workshop, under the guidance of Drs. Dammann, Savich, Song, Escobedo, Bhombal and Lingappan.

The Workshop itself began with the Neonatal Coding session on Friday morning led by Drs. Edward A. Liechty, Stephen A. Pearlman, Richard A. Molteni, and the other members of the Section's Coding Committee. This was followed in the afternoon by a “Deep Dive” extended coding seminar, focused more on topics of interest to non-physician professional billers.

Friday afternoon got off to an action-packed start with the “Survey of Neonatologists' Knowledge, Opinions and Attitudes” audience response session, led by Dr. DeWayne Pursley, giving a “sneak peek” of upcoming presentations and an opportunity for attendees to compare their knowledge and opinions to those of others in the audience.

The plenary session on Friday afternoon featured the Butterfield Lecture given by our Section Apgar Awardee, Dr. Richard Martin, entitled, “Do Intermittent Hypoxic Episodes in Preemies Matter?” Dr. Garey Noritz then offered an intriguing session on “Improving the Value of Health Care for the NICU Graduate.” Dr. Jeff Kaiser provided a comprehensive review of “Hypoglycemia Treatment Thresholds” followed by Roger Soll's expert summation of the available evidence and knowledge gaps. Mark Del Monte JD, always a crowd favorite, did not disappoint, in his engaging and informative update on current events in Washington DC related to child health care legislation.

The “buffet” of Saturday morning workshops included practical clinical topics ranging from optimizing growth in infants receiving human milk in the NICU to transitioning complex patients from NICU to home. There was a fascinating session on working with your lawyer to prepare a successful defense by Mark Lynch JD, MD. QI topics included a session, “Creating and Understanding Run and Control Charts,” led by the famous duo, Drs. Kaplan and Gupta. Dr. Moltini continued to impart his management expertise through his sessions, “Regulatory Requirements and Patient Safety” and “Strategic Planning in the NICU.” A new look at feedback, teaching how to receive it, by Dr. Suresh and a career development panel featuring Drs. Albertine, George and Lou were offerings focused on early career attendees.
On Saturday afternoon, Mark Del Monte, along with Drs. Friedman and Lucke, conducted an extended workshop on “Newborn Advocacy Outside of the NICU.”

On Sunday morning, the plenary session began with updates from the Committee on the Fetus and Newborn led by Dr. James Cummings. Dr. Kurt Albertine gave a fascinating presentation on early respiratory support and neurologic outcomes, which included videos of very cute lambs undergoing developmental testing. Dr. Mark Lynch’s presentation, “Neonatology and the Law,” and Dr. Brenda Poindexter’s session on standardizing feeding protocols rounded out the meeting. The Workshop concluded with DeWayne Pursley’s follow-up interactive, and somewhat harrowing, audience response “Cactus Toss.”

Don’t miss this exciting and interactive meeting which provides a unique venue for exploration of topics important to neonatologists practicing in a variety of settings at various stages of their career. Mark your calendars for the 2019 Workshop on Neonatal Perinatal Practice Strategies to be held on March 29-31, 2019 at the Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale, AZ.

SoNPM Program at the 2018 NCE

Andrew Hopper MD, FAAP

Please plan to attend the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Program at the 2018 AAP NCE Meeting in Orlando, November 2-4, 2018. After the Friday evening poster session and Saturday morning scientific abstract presentations, there will be a joint session with the Section on Advances in Therapeutics and Technology on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday morning, a session devoted to management of the premature, ELBW baby from delivery room to follow-up will be presented. For more information and registration, see https://shop.aap.org/2018-national-conference-and-exhibition.

DRUG THERAPEUTICS

Currently, many conditions and diseases in critically ill neonates are managed with off-label drugs due to lack of data to support safety and efficacy to determine appropriate dose and formulation. Over 90% of drugs used to treat critically ill term and premature infants do not have sufficient research to have FDA approval for use in these specific populations. This joint session will employ a “TED Talk” format followed by a panel discussion to review:

1. The challenges and opportunities in neonatal drug development and the critical role for neonatologists in developing neonatal drugs and new therapies.
2. The process of FDA regulatory approval for new and established therapies to improve the care and outcome of critically ill newborns.
3. The role of the International Neonatal Consortium to review therapies being applied to common neonatal conditions encountered in neonatal practice.
4. Selected studies from the NICHD Pediatric Trials Network to improve neonatal care. What is the role for neonatologists, neonatal practices, nursing and parents?

Faculty panel: Gerri Baer (FDA), Jonathan Davis, Matt Laughon, Bernard Thebaud, Alan Flake and Ron Ariagno (moderator).

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

The session on emerging technology will focus on two areas of development: Use of stem cells in the treatment of BPD and chronic lung injury and the development of an artificial placenta to provide cardiopulmonary support for extremely premature, low-birth weight infants. Faculty: Bernard Thebaud and Alan Flake.

CARE OF THE PREMATURE ELBW INFANT

Care of the ELBW premature infant requires a careful, protocolized approach to management to minimize morbidity and enhance neurodevelopmental outcomes. Confusion exists regarding defining normal blood pressure and first line management for treatment of hypotension. Newer, non-invasive delivery room monitoring techniques and neuroprotective care may enhance outcomes of these infants. This session will cover:

1. The newest techniques for delivery room monitoring and stabilization of the ELBW, premature infant.
2. Early postnatal cardiovascular adaption in extremely preterm infants and the importance of measuring blood pressure and approaches to assessment of adequate perfusion using newer monitoring techniques.
3. The approach for treating hypotension and therapies available.
4. Neuroprotective strategies in the immediate postnatal period that should be applied to minimize intraventricular hemorrhage and improve neurodevelopmental outcomes.
5. The role of biomarkers for early diagnosis and interventions to prevent neonatal lung disease and BPD (PROP Trial).
6. The latest follow-up data on neurodevelopmental outcomes of extremely premature infants.

Faculty: Anup Katheria, Beau Batton, Sunny Juul, Judy Aschner and Susan Hintz.

WORKSHOP ON SETTING UP A SMALL BABY UNIT

Immediately following the Care of the Premature ELBW session, an optional interactive workshop will be held that will cover the nuts and bolts of setting up a small baby unit. Online materials provided will include clinical guidelines and protocols covering workflow, medical team
responsibilities and interaction, and patient data collection for QI and research.
Faculty: Kris Reber, Ana Banerji, and Raylene Phillips.
We are looking forward to an exciting and interactive meeting with excellent faculty. Hope to see you there!

**MidCaN Update**

**Dena K. Hubbard MD, FAAP**

The Mid-Career Neonatologist (MidCaN) group had its second annual meeting at the 2018 Workshop on Neonatal Perinatal Practice Strategies in Scottsdale. The focus for our group this year has been mentoring. Mid-career physicians find themselves in a unique situation as they are growing into mentors, but still learning in their role as the mentee. Invited speaker Janet Bickel presented “Hard Work and Good Intentions Aren’t Enough: Mentoring and Finding Mentors Across Career Stages.” Mentoring is critical to attract and engage high performers, nurture academic aspirations, acculturate new members, increase productivity, promote diversity, and develop leadership talent. Bickel states, “Being a mentor is the most effective way of extending one’s professional contributions.”

Everyone can become a better mentor. Bickel described five mentoring competency areas: Creating safety, meeting people “where they are”, setting expectations for the relationship, providing an effective combination of support and challenge, and fostering independence. The group was reminded about differences in the mentor-mentee relationship and noticing our assumptions. This is particularly important in terms of diversity, whether it be gender, race, culture, or age demographic (millenials!). Relationship-building affirmations include demonstrating “PEARLS”: Partnership, Empathy, Acknowledgment, Respect, Legitimization, and Support. Mentors are encouraged to be accessible and approachable, foster a sense of collegiality, encourage mentees to take responsibility for their career and to build their network, identify gaps in mentee knowledge and skills, provide constructive critiques, challenge mentees to take risks aligned with their values, understand there are many ways to build a career, suggest appropriate resources, and ask questions that encourage reflection by the mentee. A good mentor will stimulate “You are the CEO of your own career” thinking.

For mid-career mentees, it is important to define what “success” means at an individual level. Unique questions of mid-career faculty might include: How do I decrease involvement in activities that are not a good fit? What commitments can I renegotiate? How can I remain competitive? In what ways might I increase my influence? Should I do more or less community service? Do I need to move? Mentees are encouraged to look for mentors who can be learning partners and can see many sides of complex issues, ask great questions, offer new lines of sight, challenge and expand mentees’ mental models, and are free from conflict of interest. Other tips for mentees include to network, go deep fast in conversations, and develop agility. Bickel advises, “Differentiate between what you can and cannot influence, learn from surprises and disappointments, stay alert to signs of poor fit between you and your roles, take full advantage of professional meetings (and groups like Mid-CaN!), keep improving the skills of bridging differences, and seek feedback.”

Attendees were encouraged to ask trustworthy colleagues for feedback and listen for themes.

The session ended with two slides on resilience. Resilience is defined as our long-term ability to respond to adversity in a healthy manner. This requires the following: 1. Wholehearted engagement with realities, 2. Freedom from arrogance and nostalgia, 3. Experimenting with alternatives, 4. Building community, and 5. Physical, mental and emotional health. Long term satisfaction depends on diversified social resources and interests, realistic expectations, relationships with family, contact with colleagues including receiving feedback and working together to arrive at fair decisions, proactive engagement with skill limitations, and self-demarcation with patients. This coupled well with the joint MidCaN and WECaN session, “Physician Wellness and Burnout,” presented by Gauthum Suresh held Saturday evening.

The meeting concluded with an update from the SoNPM Executive Council, discussion on strategic plan for the group, and subcommittee reports. Our three proposed priorities for the upcoming year include exploring gender parity in compensation; mandating warnings about THC use in pregnancy in states where it is legal for non-medicinal purposes; and advocating for mothers and infants in safe, common sense feeding practices that encourage breastfeeding, while also respecting mother’s choice and medical needs of the infant. Plan to join us at the 2018 AAP NCE in Orlando. MidCaN will meet Friday afternoon November 2nd 1-4 pm.

Neonatologists who are 7-17 years post Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine fellowship are eligible to participate in MidCaN. Eligible SoNPM members who are interested should contact one of the executive committee members or email sonpm.midcan@gmail.com. Annual meetings are held at the Workshop on Neonatal Perinatal Practice

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**Save the Date!**

43rd Annual District VIII Conference 2019
Anchorage, AK
http://www.district8perinatal.org/
Strategies in Scottsdale, AZ in the spring, and the AAP NCE meeting in the fall.
MidCaN leadership would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to the SoNPM leadership for making this group a reality and for their continued support, especially Renate Savich, Andy Hopper, John Zupancic, Jim Couto, and Monique Phillips.

MidCaN Rising Star

Tara M. Randis MD, MS, FAAP

What has been your education and career path so far?
I am a graduate of The University of Scranton and received my MD from Drexel University School of Medicine. I completed my pediatric residency training at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia where I served an additional year as Chief Resident before pursuing fellowship training in neonatal-perinatal medicine at Columbia University. In 2011, I completed my MS degree in biostatistics from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. I am currently an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Microbiology at New York University School of Medicine.

Early in my fellowship training, I realized I truly enjoyed my time in the lab. I decided to pursue a career as a physician-scientist and it has been incredibly rewarding. My clinical experiences as a neonatologist drive my research efforts, which are focused primarily upon understanding mechanisms by which maternal infections (especially those with Group B Streptococcus) contribute to adverse pregnancy outcomes and neonatal morbidity and mortality.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next 5 years?
I hope to continue build my mentoring skills and continue to work with trainees and junior faculty in the lab. I hope to convince a few of them to pursue a research career. I am also working on honing my leadership skills and look forward to taking on more administrative responsibilities.

What was the best advice you’ve gotten?
That no single career path is identical and they often do not follow a straight trajectory.

What advice would you give to your TECaN colleagues?
I have been the fortunate recipient of extraordinary mentorship throughout my career.

I think that establishing and maintaining these mentoring relationships early on is the best advice I could give.

What was smartest career move you’ve made thus far?
Sticking with my research, particularly when it felt futile and frustrating.

What would you like to change about your career or life if you could have a “do over”?
I may have taken more time “to smell the roses” earlier in my career. I felt like I was in such a rush to finish training. I would have taken a year off in between undergraduate and medical school to travel a bit.

What helps to balance career and out of hospital life?
I have a fantastic husband who is a constant source of support and an amazing father to our three children. I have incredible friends that help to keep me focused on what’s most important in life and provide needed comedy relief every step of the way.

What made you get involved with MidCaN and what do you hope that the group will do?
Over the past several years, I noted that conversations with my peers often focused on a new set of career challenges: Emerging administrative responsibilities, being a successful mentor, changing career paths, juggling family responsibilities, and maintaining funding and protected time to pursue research goals, etc. Becoming a member of MidCaN seemed like an ideal way to learn from others facing similar challenges and a terrific opportunity to become more involved with the Section.

TECaN News

Colby Day MD, FAAP

Have you heard about TECaN? If you haven’t heard about us yet, we are the Trainees and Early Career Neonatologists group, under the overall direction of the Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine. TECaN aims to fulfill the medical home needs of neonatology fellows and early career neonatologists who are within their first 7 years post-fellowship. Our organization consists of an Executive Council with individuals responsible for membership, communication, advocacy, as well as specific liaisons for each of the ten AAP districts and early career neonatologist representatives. TECaN was originally formed in 2008 under the direction of Dr. Judy Aschner and Dr. Linda Van Marter, and over the past 10 years, it has grown under the close mentorship of Dr. Van Marter, Dr. Tom Parker, and Dr. Heather Burris.

Traditionally, TECaN has focused on fellowship training, career development, advocacy, leadership, quality improvement, and research. One of our main goals over the past two years has been to increase general membership involvement in TECaN initiatives by creating opportunities for collaboration and networking. We have
been working diligently with interested TECaN members to create a “Top 10 Things to Know in Fellowship” document highlighting a range of content from landmark neonatology articles to financial advice to resources in the form of procedural videos. We have also completed a “Top 10 Things Every New Attending Should Know” document to cover topics ranging from board preparation to promotion advice to MOC information and much more. We are working to update our TECaN website with fresh information and resources, such as a new Job Timeline and an updated MOC PowerPoint, along with member success stories of quality improvement projects, global health initiatives, and advocacy efforts.

In the past year, TECaN has also made its first debut in advocacy! With increased emphasis on all pediatricians and subspecialists acting as advocates for our patients, both at the local and national level, TECaN has focused on creating opportunities for fellows and early career neonatologists to learn how to become advocates and participate in advocacy initiatives. At the 2018 AAP Annual Leadership Forum (ALF), TECaN submitted resolutions for the first time, which were authored by TECaN Executive Council members as well as interested TECaN members. We are excited to share with you that all four of our resolutions were accepted! We are already hard at work on resolutions to be submitted at the 2019 ALF and welcome contributions from all TECaN members. Additionally, TECaN will be launching our very first large-scale advocacy campaign at the 2018 NCE meeting in Orlando – #NavigatingNAS (see lead article in this newsletter). This campaign will have four major areas of focus, namely understanding the opioid epidemic; empowering mothers to advocate for themselves and their infants; a review of past, present, and future NAS medical management; and safe discharge home for infants affected by NAS with appropriate neurodevelopmental monitoring and multidisciplinary follow up.

We are also excited regarding upcoming opportunities to partner with other groups and organizations to create opportunities for our TECaN members. I encourage you to regularly check our website for updates on new exciting partnerships and initiatives. Our monthly Newsflash, sent to the TECaN listserv, is also an excellent source of information regarding upcoming conferences, discounts and deals, new resources, and calls for participation in new initiatives. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, questions, or just to see how to get more involved!

Provisional Section on Simulation and Innovative Learning Methods

Taylor Sawyer DO, MEd, CHSE-A, FAAP

The AAP Section on Simulation and Innovative Learning Methods (SILM) was established in July 2016. The Section is a forum for collaboration among pediatric educators and researchers engaged in the use of simulation and innovative learning methods. The mission of the SILM Section is to support the education and research interests of AAP members engaged in simulation and innovative learning in order to attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents and young adults. All AAP members and allied health professions with an interest in simulation and innovative learning methods are welcome to join.

Over the past two years, the Section has grown to over 460 members. On March 16th, 2018, the SILM Section was recognized for Outstanding Service in Member Recruitment at the 2018 AAP Annual Leadership Forum. The Section has partnered with other organizations involved in simulation and innovative learning including the International Pediatric Simulation Society (IPPS) and the International Network for Simulation-based Pediatric Innovation Research & Education (INSPIRE).

The Section has an exciting and interactive session scheduled for AAP NCE 2018 to help providers navigate difficult conversations around vaccine refusal. The session will use standardized patients from the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

The SILM Section and the Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine have a joint session planned for the 2019 AAP NCE. The session will educate neonatal healthcare providers on effective ways to conduct post-event debriefings in neonatal care. During the session, an expert panel will discuss basic concepts of post-event debriefing in neonatal care, differentiate post-event debriefing from critical incident stress management, and review debriefing techniques to improve patient safety and quality of care. Video examples and small group discussion will be used to make the session interactive and fun.

To learn more about the SILM section, check out our section’s webpage on www.aap.org

Adverse Drug Reactions in the NICU

Tamorah Lewis MD, PhD, FAAP

Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are defined as unintended and harmful effects resulting from the use of medications intended for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes. ADRs are common in pediatric inpatient settings, and the rate of ADRs is 3 times higher among pediatric patients as compared to non-elderly adults. Studies in neonatal populations vary, but some manuscripts report up to 30% of NICU infants experience at least 1 ADR during their hospital stay.

Adverse drug reactions are under-recognized in the NICU. The reasons for this are multiple, but include complex and critically ill patients, poly-pharmacy, and clinician inclination to attribute changes in clinical status to underlying or new pathology instead of drug side effects. In addition, traditional ADR algorithms (i.e. Naranjo) were not designed for neonates in the ICU, which increases the difficulty in accurately classifying suspected ADRs. Since most drugs used in the NICU have not been rigorously studied in the Phase 1-3 regulatory paradigm aimed at quantifying safety (and efficacy), it is important to document safety signals in clinical practice. Developing real-world methods to identify adverse drug reactions in routine clinical practice are needed to improve neonatal care and outcomes.

I am a member of the AAP SoNPM Taskforce Committee for Neonatal Perinatal Therapeutic Development (NeoPeriTD) which was established in 2015 under the leadership of Ron Ariagno MD, FAAP. When a new neonate-specific ADR classification tool was published by Du and colleagues (1), there was a unique opportunity for this taskforce to investigate ADRs in the NICU. We created a QI team at The Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City including me, Alexandra Oschman (PharmD) and Betsy Cammack (NICU fellow) to address the important question of ADR incidence and classification in the NICU.

In the planning cycle, we reviewed the number of ADRs reported in the electronic medical record from the NICU. We found that there was less than 5 reported in 12 months, a statistic completely incompatible with the realities of drug reactions in a NICU setting. For the first PDSA cycle, launched in fall 2017, our goal was to increase recognition and reporting of ADRs in the NICU. We presented the new QI project to the Division, created a bedside tool to be used on rounds (listed 5 high risk drugs: Dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, dexametomidine, fentanyl, indomethacin, lorazepam; common ADRs; and ADR classification tools) and recruited the NICU pharmacists and RNs to champion the use of the tool at the bedside. The first PDSA cycle was a success, with a sharp increase in recognition and reporting of ADRs. The monitoring tool was used 90% of the time and ADRs were reported in 15/43 monitored patients in a 4 month period. Our QI team presented the results at a local QI conference (see photo). There was less ambiguity with the Du algorithm than the Naranjo score to classify the ADRs as “definite”, “probable”, “possible” or “unlikely”.

For the second PDSA cycle (ongoing), it was recognized that the tool was not reaching the bedside unless the pharmacists recognized the drug order for one of the 5 key drugs, so an automated pharmacy report was generated which prints every 12 hours, to facilitate infant recognition and delivery of the QI tool to the bedside. In addition, we are working to integrate ADR discussion on rounds into the culture by sending out emails about ADRs and updates about the QI project.

In the future, we hope to take this project forward with complete integration of ADR discussions on rounds. Our goal is to expand the ADR discussion from these 5 drugs to all drugs used in the NICU. In addition, our group is working with Dr. Gerri Baer, a neonatologist from the Office of Pediatric Therapeutics at the FDA, to optimize reporting of neonatal ADRs to the FDA MedWatch system and recognition of these ADRs on the side of the FDA pediatric teams. In addition, once our tools are well established and the QI processes clear, this project may be expanded to other units for MOC Part 4 credit. We appreciate the support of the SoNPM Taskforce in these efforts and look forward to continuing to improve care for our patients in the NICU.

Yes WECaN!

Stephen A. Pearlman MD, MS, FAAP

WECaN, the newly formed special interest group for Well Established Career Neonatologists, had its first official meeting at the Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies Workshop in Scottsdale on April 14. By all accounts, the meeting was a success. Over 30 people have expressed their interest in becoming part of this group that will deal with a variety of issues of concern to senior neonatologists defined as ≥ 18 years out of training or > 50 years old.

Some of the issues discussed at our business meeting included financial and insurance concerns, resiliency/burnout, negotiating the terms of your retirement, opting out of night call and other transitioning issues, how your skills can be translated into other opportunities, mentoring the next generation/staying relevant, solidifying your legacy, volunteer opportunities and strengthening your outside interests. These and other topics will be delved into in greater depth at future meetings.

The business meeting was followed by a wonderful presentation on burnout and resiliency by Gautham Suresh, for which WECaN was joined by MidCaN, the special interest group for mid-career neonatologists. His talk was very enlightening. We finished up with a lovely reception for our group together with the MidCaN members.

WECaN has developed an organizational structure. I will serve as the inaugural Chair, and Scott Duncan from the University of Louisville will be our Secretary/Treasurer. We are also trying to identify District Representatives who will serve as contacts for WECaN members and for those interested in joining. Thus far the following individuals have volunteered:

District II – Joanna Beachy (JBeachy@northwell.edu)
District IV – Rita Ryan (ryan@musc.edu)
District VI – Dee-Ann Pillers (pillersd@UIC.EDU)
District VIII – Sunny Juul (sjuul@uw.edu)
District X – Mark Hudak (mark.hudak@jax.ufl.edu)

If you are from one of the districts without representation and are interested, please contact me at spearlman@christianacare.org

Our future plans include creating a webpage and a listserv. We will be communicating through articles in the Newsletter such as this one. We are currently in the process of planning our next meeting at the NCE in November which will include a business meeting and a speaker.

This group was founded on the premise that there are unique challenges and opportunities faced by neonatologists in this phase of their career. We would love to have your thoughts concerning issues about aging (gracefully, of course) in our chosen field. We look forward to hearing from you and to your participation in WECaN. Please contact your district representative or me with any questions or comments.

Rules for Neonatologists to Live By

Caraciolo J. Fernandes MD

As a clinician and practicing neonatologist, having trained and worked in three different continents over three decades, I’ve discovered many pearls of wisdom that can only be garnered at the mill of experience. As an educator in a large academic medical center, I have the opportunity to share my insights with trainees who will walk the road I once did and hopefully benefit from my experience. Since most lessons are learned and not taught, I’ve distilled my core insights into what is now fondly referred to by my trainees as “The Fernandes Rules”. From a pragmatic standpoint, the truths may be applied to other intensivists or physicians in general.

Rule 1: If a baby is sick, work quick

This rule was born from an experience over two decades ago in Australia after I attended a delivery of an apparently normal newborn, whom I quickly dispatched to room-in with his mother. Two hours later, the baby’s nurse called me to say the baby was breathing strangely. A quick exam established that the baby was grunting, and prudence dictated a sepsis work-up was indicated. A half-hour later,

Coding Question

A full term infant is referred from an outlying hospital for treatment of meconium aspiration. On arrival he has an oxygenation index of 42, is maximally ventilated, and is unresponsive to iNO. You decide to initiate ECMO. The pediatric surgeon places aortic and SVC catheters.

The proper coding for this infant is:

A. 99468 (initial critical care), 33946 (ECMO initiation, VV)
B. 99468, 33947 (ECMO initiation, VA)
C. 33947

Correct ICD-10 codes for the infant would include all except:

A. P24.01 Meconium aspiration with respiratory symptoms
B. Z38.00 Single liveborn infant, delivered vaginally
C. P29.3 Persistent fetal circulation

Answer on page 17.
I was performing a lumbar puncture when I observed splotches of serpiginous skin discoloration on the infant’s torso consistent with embolic phenomena. Four hours after birth, two hours after I was called to see the infant, the infant was dead. A few hours later, the blood culture grew group B streptococcus. This incident, albeit in the pre-group B strep guidelines era, gave me a healthy respect for the dire consequences of fulminant sepsis despite therapy. Recounting my story to trainees never fails to evoke disbelief that infection can be so fulminant or that minutes matter. In response, I explain with an analogy, that every devastating forest fire can be prevented if the first spark is quenched, and vulnerable neonates benefit by timely rapid intervention. In NICUs where family-centered care is practiced, families at the bedside of a sick infant are reassured by a medical team that acts swiftly, as it affirms their belief that their medical team cares and is doing everything possible to help their child.

Rule 2. Question everything
As a young trainee, I was often inundated by my teachers or seniors with dogmatic truths that I later learned were not true. I subsequently discovered that most often the folks who shared their wisdom usually genuinely believed whatever they shared with me. I discovered that it wasn’t that their fondly-held beliefs were not true once, but, in time, newer discoveries or technology made their truths obsolete. To guard against falling prey to such false truisms as I once did, I admonish my trainees to question everything that is told to them by anyone, including myself. I caution them that, if they wish to always practice good medicine for the rest of their career, they should develop the habit of filtering “truths” through the lens of evidence-based inquiry, and not accept dogma or dictums until they have satisfied themselves that it made sense and were validated by research. I share with them that by following this rule I had learned more since my fellowship than I did in my fellowship.

Rule 3. To take good care of your patients, you must take care of yourself first
Shortly after completing my pediatric residency in post-British India, I applied for a post as a clinical fellow in private hospital under the direction of a respected senior pediatrician. On our first day on the pediatric ward, he briefed the three new recruits on his expectations of us for the coming six months. As he wagged his index finger and pointed to each in turn, he admonished us, “I don’t want any of you taking care of MY patients if you can’t take care of yourself!” He warned us that he’d be watching and that he would have no shenanigans; we were to ensure that we ate well, slept well and did not indulge in any late night parties. While I have never repeated his dramatic briefing with any of my trainees, over the years, I have grown to appreciate the wisdom of his words. I’ve come to realize that, especially in an ICU, one can only hope to deliver the best care for one’s patients if one is functioning at one’s peak ability – which, of course, comes from taking care of oneself. Not surprisingly, this rule aligns well with the recent focus on the Quadruple Aim in Healthcare.

Rule 4. If it seems complicated, you may be doing something wrong
This recent addition to the “Fernandes Rules” was a contribution from one of my trainees, who listened to my much-repeated phrase and deemed it rule-worthy. The phrase: “Neonatology is simple; it’s usually we who muddy the waters, and then wonder why everything seems complicated.” As my young trainee discovered, when a situation appears complicated, it often helps to take a step back and examine the evidence unemotionally, carefully and pragmatically. Invariably, the solution to the problem presents itself following a methodical examination of the data at hand. A month following a stint elsewhere, the apprentice, now a seasoned rule-maker, found me to excitedly recount how wonderful and useful “rule no. 4” was to her in her supervisory rotation.

As practicing physicians, we all have role models and mentors who guide our thinking and help us grow. However, it is our experiences while caring for our patients that shape our perspective in the clinical arena, our style of managing our patients, and, ultimately, the clinical outcomes. While unquestionably my physician brethren will have their own insights they consider valuable, I humbly offer the above four “rules” for consideration to those who walk the intensivists’ path.

Ronald L. Ariagno MD, FAAP
This article is to give the highlights from “A directory for neonatal intensive care (NIC): potential for facilitating network-based research in neonatology” (Ariagno RL et al. J Perinatol March 15, 2018 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-018-0097-8), which presents the history of NIC directories to date, the plan to update and to advance functionality via web-based platform, proposal on how to implement the updated and new directory, and the potential impact of a Neonatal-Perinatal Research Network for maternal/infant health and outcome. Our last Neonatal Perinatal Therapeutic Development (NeoPeriTD) Task Force meeting was May 3, 2018 to discuss this and several other Sub-Committee topics to plan agenda and action for 2018-2019.
Chronology of NIC Directories and Association with Databases:

In May 1994, at the first meeting of the California directors of neonatal intensive care units (NICU), there was an initiative to create a directory of all NICU directors and the staff and facilities for neonatal intensive care in California. The first edition was published in November 1994. The first national directory was created by the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Perinatal Pediatrics (now Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine) in 1996. The first directory of USA and Canada (1007 and 38 NICUs, respectively) was published in 2011. There were 100 Neonatal Perinatal Training Programs in the USA.

After 2011, formal annual updates were not sustained except for California. An annual volunteer private update was done by training programs and directors to maintain communication and collaboration.

The California Association of Neonatologists (CAN) began in 1994. The California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC) database started in 1997 and the Maternity Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) database in 2006. The CPQCC and Vermont Oxford Network (VON) have used the California directory and have conducted and published numerous collaborative projects for quality improvement. Advancement of current paper/PDF directories to web-based platform would improve content and functionality (see J Perinatol article for details).

Establishing a New Searchable Neonatal-Perinatal Clinical Trials Regulatory Research Directory:

The goal of this directory would be to show resources (facilities and staff) and provide searchable functionality to facilitate research collaboration needed for regulatory science and pediatric study plans required for approval by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This directory would provide data on the number of newborn deliveries and admissions to the NICU with clarification of the gestational age range and birthweight strata. Ideally, the NICU’s clinical data would be linked to the electronic medical record and other databases such as the CPQCC, CMQCC or California Children’s Services.

The Duke Clinical Research Institute NICHD Pediatric Trials Network (PTN) established in 2011 (https://www.pediatrictrials.org) has had effective collaboration and communication across academic organizations, NIH, and FDA. The PTN leadership would be a critical resource to help set up a Regulatory Research Directory. Organizations such as the PTN and public-private partnerships, such as the International Neonatal Consortium (INC) and the Institute for Advanced Clinical Trials for Children (I-ACT for Children), which are defining important priorities for regulatory research, could have access to research groups to determine availability of a target clinical population and to identify those centers which have the capacity for successfully conducting regulatory research trials. This searchable directory of research capacity would increase visibility of those NICUs that are seeking to engage in research. Investigators seeking other centers to participate in a multi-center trial could search for centers with certain types or numbers of patients or certain available resources such as site research coordinators and/or specimen banking. Such a resource would also be attractive for funders and pharmaceutical companies seeking collaborators for specific projects.
Practical Steps for Establishing a Web-Based Directory:

1. Dr. Bhatt has California’s NICU directors’ support to obtain NICU data for 2018.
2. We are in discussion with web-based developer to start the project with the California 2018 data.
3. Funding source(s) will be needed to support set up and maintenance of the California NICU Web Directory.
4. Adding and establishing Clinical Trial Regulatory Research Directory will require collaboration with PTN leaders. A consensus for establishing accepted Standards of Care for all California NICUs will improve network research and has already been discussed to start with antibiotic stewardship: (https://neonatalsepsiscalculator.kaiserpermanente.org/?kp_shortcut_referrer=kp.org/eoscalc).
5. Test utility of the California Clinical Trials Regulatory Research Directory in a regulatory therapeutic trial.
6. Evolve into a national and, ideally, global directory after showing success in California.

ONTPD Update

Kristina M. Reber MD, FAAP

We had great attendance for our Spring ONTPD (Organization of Neonatal-Perinatal Training Program Directors) meeting at the PAS. Our speakers provided insight into research opportunities for our fellows in simulation, quality improvement and the utilization of national neonatal databases (Vermont Oxford Network and the Children’s Hospital Neonatal Database). We will continue to focus our spring ONTPD meeting (at the PAS) on academic topics and opportunities for our neonatal fellows.

We will hold our annual ONTPD fall meeting (prior to the AAP NCE) on Nov. 2nd in Orlando. This meeting will include updates from the ABP, ACGME, TECaN, SoNPM and Council of Pediatric Subspecialties (COPS). We will include committee updates and break out sessions with opportunities to discuss important issues for PD (Program Directors)/APD (Associate Program Directors). Former breakout sessions have ultimately become working groups and committees that continue to support PD/APDs and optimize our fellowships. As well, we plan to have the ONTPD reception the evening of Nov. 1st. The reception and annual meeting provide a great opportunity for PD/APDs to network and learn from each other!

We encourage your participation in the ONTPD through communication with the council, attendance at meetings and involvement with committees. Below are updates for our current committees:

National Neonatology Curriculum Committee (Chair Heather French) This committee is continuing work to develop and study the impact of a standardized, peer-reviewed neonatal physiology curriculum which pairs online learning with flipped classroom discussions. Education content is available and freely accessible on MinuteCE.com (use the search term “Neo Flip”). A randomized controlled trial comparing traditional didactic classrooms with flipped classrooms will start in September 2018. The outcome measures will be knowledge retention and learner/educator preference. Currently, 63 neonatal fellowship programs are enrolled to participate.

Website Committee (Chair Patrick Myers) Thank you to Patrick and his committee! We now have a new ONTPD website!

Please email any suggestions for improvement or updated information for your program to Patrick Myers (pmyers@luriechildrens.org)

Standard Forms Committee (Chair Heidi Karpen) This group is collating and developing forms (e.g. annual review, scholarship oversight committee documentation etc.) that are useful to PD/APDs. These forms will be available on the ONTPD website.

PD Mentorship Committee (Chairs Melissa Carbajal and Cathy Bendel) We have successfully paired mentors and mentee neonatal fellowship PDs. If you are interested in serving as a mentor or would like to be paired with a mentor, please email Melissa Carbajal (mmcarbaj@bcm.edu).

Important Dates to Remember

3rd Annual PD Boot Camp - Nov. 1st, 2018, Orlando
ONTPD Reception – evening Nov. 1st, 2018, Orlando
Fall ONTPD Annual Meeting at the AAP NCE - Nov. 2nd, 2018, Orlando

The 3rd annual boot camp will be held the afternoon prior to the ONTPD fall meeting (Nov. 1st). This is open to all PD/APDs and will focus on logistics and details that are important in running a neonatal fellowship program. This smaller forum allows a great opportunity to discuss issues that are particularly challenging for PDs and strategies to efficiently and effectively run a fellowship program.
National Association of Neonatal Nurses and National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners Report

Erin Keels DNP, APRN-CNP, NNP-BC

NANN is proud to announce that the updated edition of Baby Steps to Home is now available to nurses and parents! This free resource standardizes the discharge pathway used by NICU nurses to educate parents about their babies’ conditions and prepare them for discharge. In each step, nurses will find evidence-based PDFs for their own education and easy-to-understand, editable documents that can be printed and handed to parents following a discussion. The new edition offers revisions to 85% of the handouts as well as 19 new handouts for nurses and patients. Updates include:

- New handouts on newborn screening and critical congenital heart defects screening
- A new handout on postpartum depression
- Six new diagnoses
- Six new medications
- A new section on procedures
- An updated and expanded resources section

The 13th Annual NANN Research Summit took place in Scottsdale, AZ on April 10-12, 2018, just ahead of the 2018 Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies. Twenty three neonatal nurses were selected from more than 50 applicants to attend the Mead-Johnson fully-supported Summit to present their research, quality improvement project or practice change outcomes with other researchers from around the country and the world.

A keynote presentation, “Optimizing Enteral Nutrition in Extremely Preterm Infants: Facts, Fiction and Everything in Between,” was provided by Dr. Leslie Parker and Dr. Jacqueline McGrath, Co-Editor of Advances in Neonatal Care. Dr. Shelley Thibeau, the Research Co-section Editor presented “Effective Ways to Organize and Report Research Studies,” in addition to offering individual publishing consultation with the attendees.

Project topics ranged from the golden hour, gastrochisis and post-operative feeding, moral distress and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, the effects of skin-to-skin contact on oxytocin release, breastfeeding education in India, the effect of nurse work environment on mortality of very low birth weight infants, coloring for stress reduction in advanced practice providers and thought-provoking insight into nurses’ knowledge about immunizations.

On Wednesday evening, the 2nd Annual Research Exchange and Reception was held with the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Executive Committee. After a welcome from Dr. Ann Phalen, NANN Research Committee Chair and Dr. Christina Valentine, Medical Director for Mead-Johnson Nutrition, our panel of presenters discussed the use of glucose gel, positioning and gastro-esophageal reflux, lactation practices, and implementing practice change in delayed cord clamping. Dr. John Zupancic delivered inspiring closing remarks, expressing appreciation for the collaboration and potential for increasing interprofessional work. NANN and the Research Summit look forward to ongoing collaboration and collegiality at the 2019 Summit.

NANN’s Small Grants Committee accepted applications until March 1, 2018 from members interested in initiating their own research EBP project and developing their research skills. The program is designed to encourage novice researchers and nurses with clinical questions to formalize their projects and submit for funding. Selected candidates will partner with an experienced mentor to put together a research or EBP proposal. The review committee is available to help recommend a mentor if needed.

NANN and NANNP members are eligible to apply for scholarships to support continuing education and professional development through the March of Dimes Graduate Nursing Scholarships, NANN Emerging Leader Program, and the NICU Leadership Forum. Members should check the NANN website for deadlines and application materials.

The 2017 NANN National Educational Conference was held in Providence, RI October 11-14. Now you can stream select conference sessions (below) on demand! Members can stream individual sessions for $19 each or purchase the bundle for $59.

- Transforming Care for Extremely Premature Babies (Artificial Womb)
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: Rethinking Our Approach
- Legalization of Marijuana: Unintended Consequences on our Most Vulnerable Patients
- Zika Virus: Update on a New Teratogen.

NANN is turning Anaheim, CA into NANNAHEIM with its 34th Annual Conference on October 17-20, 2018 at the Anaheim Hilton and Convention Center. This year’s topics include:

- Patent Ductus Arteriosus
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Physical Assessment
- Glucose Gel
- AWOHN/NANN Skin Care Guidelines
- Surgical Care
- Neonatal Infections & Sepsis Risk Calculator
- Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension
- Care of ELBW Infant

NANN is currently working on the following projects:
• Joint publication with the AAP Committee on Fetus and Newborn on Hypotension in the VLBW Infant
• Partnering with AWHONN on the release of the 4th edition of the Neonatal Skin Care Guidelines
• Finalizing and roll out of NANN’s Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist Core Competencies and Education Standards; NANN’s Policy, Procedures, and Competencies; and online RNC Review Course

NANN and NANNP will begin work to establish a national guideline for safe staffing of the APRN caring for the neonate in any unit or practice setting throughout the hospital. Key stakeholders, including the AAP Section of Neonatal Perinatal Medicine, are invited to participate. The goal is to create a safe staffing guideline that will describe neonates the APRN may care for based upon the education, certification and degree awarded in their specialty area, and will address neonates that may be cared for by the FNP, PNP, and NNP. This centralized document will house all necessary information required to make safe staffing decisions, will provide critical information needed by an APRN when deciding to accept a position that includes providing care to the neonate, and will assist administrators in making staffing decisions.

**2018 AAP NCE**

**November 2-6, 2018 • Orlando, FL**

**Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Program**

**Hyatt Regency Windermere Ballroom YZ**

**Friday, November 2, 2018**

10:00 am-5:00 pm Organization of Neonatal Training Program Directors (ONTPD)

12:45 – 1:45 pm ONTPD Lunch

Sponsored by Mead Johnson Nutrition

1:00 – 5:00 pm MIDCaN Meeting

1:00 pm -5:15 pm TeCAN Advocacy Initiative on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Haley Friedman, MD and Ashley Lucke, MD

5:15 pm -6:00 pm Keynote Address: Gerald Merenstein Lecture “The Health of Newborns in Low Resource Settings: What Can Be Done?”

Carl Bose, MD

Sponsored by Abbott Nutrition

6:00 pm Opening Reception and Poster Session

Sponsored by Abbott Nutrition

**Saturday, November 3, 2018**

8:00 AM – 5:30 PM

**Hyatt Regency Windermere Ballroom Y**

8:00 am -9:45 am Scientific Abstract Oral Presentations:

Moderators: Jenny Koo, MD and Munish Gupta, MD

8:05 AM Acetazolamide Modulates Pulmonary Inflammation and Ameliorates Severe Experimental Pulmonary Hypertension

Zoe Michael, MD, Brigham & Woman’s Hospital/ Harvard Medical School

8:20 AM Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor in Improving Outcomes of Neonatal Sepsis: A Meta-Analysis

Grazielle S. Verzosa, MD, Philippine General Hospital

8:35 AM IRAK1 Promotes Fetal Membrane Inflammation in Preterm Birth

Viral G. Jain, MD, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

8:50 AM Parental Resilience and Psychological Distress in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Oloade A. Okito, MD, Children’s National Health System

9:05 AM Flipping the Classroom on Respiratory Physiology: The National Neonatology Curriculum

Megan Gray, MD, Seattle Children’s Hospital/ University of Washington

9:20 AM Presentation of Marshall Klaus Research Awards

9:30 AM Break

9:45 am -11am Scientific Abstract Oral Presentations

Moderators: Colby Day, MD and Angel Rios, MD

9:45 AM Urine Hepcidin and Iron Regulation in Preterm Infants

Kendall German, MD, Seattle Children’s Hospital

10:00 AM Alteration of Retinal Gene Expression Pathways in Anemic Rodent Pups

Ellen C. Ingolfsland, MD, University of Minnesota

10:15 AM Maternal Peripartum Antibiotic Exposure Worsens Experimental Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia
CPT Answer: B – 99468 and 33947

33947 is the correct code for venoarterial ECMO and can be reported in addition to global critical care codes. Best practice would be to complete separate notes for ECMO management and other critical care management.

ICD Answer: B - Z38.00 is incorrect

Z38 codes are only used at the birth hospital. Since this infant was referred from a different hospital, the Z code would not be used. This applies even if the neonatologists are in the same group, but working in different hospitals. Make sure your billing software does not automatically copy forward the Z Code!

Drug Therapeutics

The Drug Therapeutics Session will review the critical roles for neonatologists in developing neonatal drugs and new therapies; understand the process of FDA regulatory approval for new and established therapies; review the role of the International Neonatal Consortium in reviewing therapies being applied to neonatal conditions and review selected studies from the Pediatric Trials Network. What is the process for clinical trial design for successful regulatory approval? What is the role for neonatologists and neonatal practices, nursing and parents?

Emerging Technologies

The Emerging Technology Session will focus on two areas of development: Use of stem cells in the treatment of chronic lung injury and BPD and the development of an artificial placenta to provide cardiopulmonary support for extremely premature, low-birth weight infants to improve survival and reduce morbidity.
Care Of The Premature, ELBW Infant From Delivery Room To Follow-Up

This session will cover the newest techniques for delivery room monitoring and stabilization of the premature, ELBW infant, review approaches to assessment of “normal” blood pressure and adequate perfusion using newer monitoring techniques, review the approach for treating hypotension and the best therapies available, understand neuroprotective strategies in the immediate postnatal period that should be applied to minimize intraventricular hemorrhage and improve neurodevelopmental outcomes, understand the role of biomarkers for early diagnosis and interventions to prevent neonatal lung disease and review the latest follow up date on outcome of the premature ELBW infants.

8:00 – 9:50 am Moderators: Ravi D’Cruz, MD and Clara Song, MD
8:00 – 8:30 Update from the Committee on the Fetus and Newborn
Chair: James Cummings, MD
8:30 – 9:00 Methods for Monitoring and Optimizing Delivery Room Management of ELBW Preterm Infants
Anup Katheria, MD
8:00 – 9:30 Early Postnatal Cardiovascular Adaptation in Extremely Preterm Infants: Does Blood Pressure Matter?
Beau Batton, MD
9:30 – 9:45 Discussion
9:45 – 10:00 Break
Moderators: Shawn Sen, MD and Alexis Davis, MD
10:00 – 10:30: Prematurity and Respiratory Outcomes (PROP)
Judy Aschner, MD

Workshop On Setting Up A Small Baby Unit

An optional, interactive workshop will be offered that will cover the nuts and bolts of setting up and operating a small baby unit. Online material will be provided that will include clinical management guidelines and protocols covering workflow, medical team responsibilities and interaction, and patient data acquisition for QI and research.

(Lunch available to first 100 attendees on a first come first served basis)

12:15 – 2:00 How to Set Up a Small Baby Unit
12:15 - 12:30 Introduction: Raylene Phillips, MD
12:30 - 1:00 Tiny Baby Program at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital
Anamika Banerji, MD
1:00 – 1:30 Small Baby Program at Nationwide Children’s Hospital
Kris Reber, MD
1:30 – 2:00 Panel Discussion and Interactive Q & A
2:00 ADJOURN
2:30 Women in Neonatology (WiN) meeting Hyatt Hotel - Bayhill 21 Room
Sponsored by a grant from Abbott Nutrition

Vermont Oxford Network’s New QI Collaborative on the Ins & Outs of Neonatal Care: Improving Critical Transitions for Every Newborn

Launching in 2019, The Ins & Outs of Neonatal Care: Improving Critical Transitions for Every Newborn is Vermont Oxford Network’s newest internet-based Newborn Improvement Collaborative for Quality (iNICQ). In this multi-center collaborative, teams that care for infants in all stages along the continuum of care work together with expert faculty to improve transitions of care.

Every day countless transitions of care occur for newborns and their families as they navigate the “ins” and “outs” of care. Each transition represents a vulnerable period; if not well planned and orchestrated the potential for serious
harm exists. Infants requiring complex medical care have magnified vulnerability.

The Joint Commission, American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Quality Forum have all identified the need to improve critical transitions of care as essential to the quality, safety, and value of care for newborns and their families.

Our goal is to help teams provide care for every newborn during critical transitions that is safe, timely, efficient, effective, equitable, patient-and family-centered, and socially responsible.

Faculty will coach teams to adopt quality improvement methods aimed at improving care during the vulnerable times that occur with a change of the care site, care status or plan, or care team. These many important transitions occur at all stages of care within a hospital or health system and between several hospitals and communities.

In partnership with parents, we can implement potentially better practices to avoid harm; improve the quality of care; potentially decrease unnecessary NICU admissions to avoid overuse and misuse of NICU beds; and when LOS is excessive, decrease length of stay and length of separation from families; and strive to avoid hospital readmissions.

Teams can join this data-driven approach to improving outcomes, the value of care, and the patient and family experience by visiting www.vtoxford.org.
SECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISONS

John A F Zupancic MD ScD FAAP
Chairperson
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Ctr
Dept Of Neonatology, Rose 318
330 Brookline Ave
Boston, MA 02215-5400
Phone: (617) 667-3276
jzupanci@bidmc.harvard.edu

Beena Gaind Sood MD MS FAAP
DISTRICT V, Exec Comm Member
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
3901 Beaubien B.vd 3N027
Detroit, MI 48201-2119
Phone (313) 745-5091
bsood@med.wayne.edu

Mary Nock MD FAAP
Newsletter Editor
Rainbow Babies & Childrens Hospital
11100 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106
Phone: (216) 844-3387
mary.nock@uhhospitals.org

Renate D Savich MD FAAP
Immediate Past Chair
University of Mississippi Medical Center
2500 N. State St.
Jackson, MS 39216
Phone: (601) 815-5981
rsavich@umc.edu

Thomas N George MD FAAP
DISTRICT VI, Exec Comm Member
University of Minnesota
Amplatz Children's Hospital
Division of Neonatology
East Building Mb632
2450 Riverside Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55454-1450
Phone: (612) 624-6595
tgeorge@umn.edu

Colby Day MD FAAP
TECaN Chair
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC 29412
dayco@musc.edu

Edward E Lawson MD FAAP
Editor, Journal of Perinatology
Sutland/Pakula Newborn Critical Care Center
Charlotte R. Bloomberg Children’s Center - Mailstop 08004
1800 Orleans St. / Rm 8513 - 8 South
Baltimore, MD 21287
Phone: (410) 955-5259
elawson@jhmi.edu

Carl L Bose MD MPH FAAP
Of Counsel
University of North Carolina Hospitals
Div of Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine
101 Manning Dr, CB #7596
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7596
cbose@med.unc.edu

SECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Jorn-Hendrik Weitkamp MD FAAP
Chair, Research Committee
Vanderbilt University & Monroe Carell Jr Children’s Hospital
2215 B Garland Ave,
1125 MRB IV/Light Hall
Nashville, TN 37232-0656
Phone: (615) 322-3476
hendrik.weitkamp@vanderbilt.edu

Sandra E Juul MD PhD FAAP
Committee on Fetus and Newborn
University of Washington
1312 NE 36th Street
Bellevue, WA 98005-1327
Phone: (425) 861-7301
sjuul@uw.edu

Thomas Parker MD FAAP
TECaN Mentor
Childrens Colorado
13121 E 17th Ave
Aurora, CO 80045
thomas.parker@childrenscolorado.org
Edward A Liechty, MD FAAP  
Chair, Coding Committee  
Riley Hospital for Children  
699 Riley Hospital Dr RR 208  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5119  
Phone: (317) 274-2065  
eleichty@iu.edu

Ann R Stark MD FAAP  
Chair, Fellow Education Committee  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
2200 Children’s Way  
Nashville, TN 37232-005  
Phone: (615) 343-7660  
an.r.stark@vanderbilt.edu

Linda J Van Marter MD MPH FAAP  
Chair, Website Committee  
TECaN Mentor  
Brigham & Women’s Hospital  
Department of Pediatric Newborn Medicine  
75 Francis Street  
Boston, MA 02115-6110  
Phone: (617) 355-6027  
Linda.vanmarter@childrens.harvard.edu

Heather H Burris, MD, FAAP  
TECaN Mentor  
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia  
421 Curie Blvd  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6160  
(215) 573-4916  
burrish@email.chop.edu

Sergio G. Golombek MD MPH  
History Chair  
Westchester Medical Center  
1 Fountain Lane Apt 3K  
Scarsdale, NY 10583-4656  
(914) 493-8488  
sergi_golombek@nymc.edu

Dena K. Wisner Hubbard MD FAAP  
MidCaN Mentor  
Children’s Mercy Hospital  
2401 Gillham Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
(816) 876-8598  
dkhubbard@gmail.com

Stephen Pearlmam MD MS FAAP  
WeCaN Chair  
Christiana Hospital  
4745 Ogletown-Stanton Map 1  
Ste 217  
Neward, DE 19713-2074  
spearlman@christianacare.org

Eugene N Ng MD FAAP  
Liaison, Canadian Pediatric Society  
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center  Newborn & Developmental Pediatrics  
2075 Bayview Ave  
Toronto, ON M4N 3M5  
Phone: (416) 480-6100, x87781  
eugene.ng@sunnybrook.ca

Garrett K Lam MD  
Liaison, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
UT Chattanooga  
902 McCallie Ave  
Chattanooga, TN 37403  
Phone: (423) 664-4460  
lam@rocob.com

Tonse N K Raju MD DCH FAAP  
Liaison, National Institutes of Health  
281 Shadow Glen Ct  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878-7417  
Phone: (301) 402-1872  
rajut@mail.nih.gov

Erin L Keels APRN MS NNP-BC  
Liaison, National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
700 Childrens Dr  
Columbus, OH 43205-2664  
Phone: (614) 506-5097  
erin.keels@nationwidechildrens.org

AAP STAFF

Jim Couto, MA  
Director, Hospital and Surgical Services  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Phone: (630) 626-6676  
Fax: (847) 434-8000  
jcouto@aap.org

Vivian Thorne  
Manager, Division of Hospital and Surgical Services  
Phone: (630) 626-6669  
vthorne@aap.org

Monique Phillips, MA  
Coordinator, Division of Hospital and Surgical Services  
mphilips@aap.org
Connecticut Children's Neonatology has also assumed the coverage of the NICU at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport, CT, with 2 new faculty members joining the group: Joseph Vitterito will serve as both Medical Director and Chair of Pediatrics at St. Vincent's and our former fellow, Arvin Bundhoo, will provide coverage at St. Vincent's as well as Western Connecticut.

We also welcome Alaina Pyle who is finishing her fellowship at Yale this July and will be joining Connecticut Children's. She will provide coverage at Western Connecticut and our Level IV NICU in Hartford.

We were pleased to cohost, with the Morgan Leary Vaughan Fund, “Speaking of NEC: Unplugged,” a one-day multidisciplinary conference on necrotizing enterocolitis on June 11th, 2018.

Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital

Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital is proud to announce the opening of a new 68-bed NICU in January 2018. It includes mostly single rooms, an operating room, a simulation center, a pharmacy, couplet care for new mothers to share a NICU room with less acute patients, and soon, a newborn MRI.

Sarah Taylor, from Medical University of South Carolina, has joined our faculty as Director of Clinical Research for Neonatology.

Mark Mercurio was selected as the incoming Chair of the AAP Section on Bioethics and was an invited speaker at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's Second Annual Defense Medical Ethics Symposium.

Lindsay Johnston, recently promoted to Associate Professor, is now on the ELSO Education Task Force, leading their Simulation Development Group.

Matt Bizzarro, recently promoted to Professor, was named the Medical Director for the Yale NICU Network.

The NICU on the Bridgeport campus of Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital moved into a new 18-bed unit. Eliza Myers, one of our former fellows who joined our faculty from Jacobi, is now Co-Medical Director of that unit, along with Bob Herzlinger.

Emese Pinter retired after decades of outstanding clinical service and teaching.

Our graduating fellows Renee Barrett and Melissa Posner will be joining the Yale neonatology faculty, and Alaina Pyle will be joining the neonatology faculty of Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Jake McPadden will be doing a fellowship in bioinformatics at Yale, and some attending time in our unit. All did a wonderful job and we wish them the best!

We are proud to announce our new fellows: Christina McClure from Georgetown, Samantha Palmacci from Montefiore/Albert Einstein, and Caitlin Nichols from Emory. Welcome!
Massachusetts General Hospital and St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center. Matt Smith-Raska will be joining the faculty at Cornell University.

Our fellows have been awarded numerous prestigious research honors. Brian Kalish received a Hearst Award. Ale Barrero-Castillero, Cicely Fadel, Ravi Raju, and Elizabeth Taglauer received Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Awards. Ale Barrero-Castillero, Monica Wojcik, and Elizabeth Taglauer received Boston Children’s Hospital House Officer Research Awards. Foti Spyropoulos was awarded a trainee grant from Chiesi.

Current fellow Emily Herzberg was recognized by the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program for excellence in teaching. We are extremely proud to announce our new fellows: Laura Bernardini, Anna Duncan, and Anne Sullivan from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Yarden Fraiman from the Boston Combined Residency Program; Lauren Frazer from University of North Carolina; and Helen Healy from Massachusetts General Hospital.

Pankaj Agrawal and Helen Christou were promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

Philip Levy will be joining the faculty at Boston Children’s Hospital in July 2018.

Aimee Knorr was appointed Director of Boston Children’s Hospital’s Infant Follow-Up Program Clinical Operations at Waltham.

Kristie Leeman was appointed Associate Fellowship Director beginning in July 2018. Kristie was also awarded Boston Children’s Hospital’s Translational Research Program Grant as well as the Department of Medicine’s Quality Improvement Award.

Numerous faculty recently received important research grants. Amy O’Connell received a Harvard Catalyst Award and, together with Stella Kouroembanas, a Radcliffe Accelerator Grant to host a workshop on cutting edge fetal interventions, and future stem cell-based and gene therapy applications to fetal medicine.

Yang Shi, Director of Neonatal Epigenetics at Boston Children’s Hospital, received a R01 grant. Christos Papadelis received a R21 grant. Emi Takahashi received a R03 grant.

Pyong Park and Stella Kouroembanas received a R21 grant as co-PIs collaborating across divisions.

Maggie Everett, Stella Kouroembanas and Jonathan Levin were recognized by the Boston Combined Residency Program for excellence in teaching.

Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston

Brigham and Women’s Hospital has achieved MAGNET Designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, joining the 8% of hospitals in the country that have achieved this designation.

Team BWH Strollers raised over $57,000 for March of Dimes at the March for Babies in May 2018, becoming the #1 non-family team in Boston.

The BWH-sponsored 2nd Annual Advances in NICU Feeding Management Workshop was held April 26-28, 2018.

Katherine Gregory PhD, RN was promoted to Executive Director of Women’s and Newborn Health at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Tanzoea Hossain received the University of Guadalajara Teaching Award in March 2018.

Elisabeth Kaza was the recipient of the 2017 Young Author Award given by the JACC: Basic to Translational Science Editorial Board.

Anne CC Lee is the recipient of a NICHD career development award and a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for her ongoing work examining outcomes in infants in Bangladesh and Africa.

Richard Parad and his team received the 2017 Brianna Marie Memorial Research Grant.

Annette Scheid was featured in Vector, Boston Children’s Hospital’s Science and Innovation Blog, for her work on building a better Hepatitis B vaccine for newborns.

Lianne Woodward and Lise Johnson, in collaboration with colleagues from the Brazelton Institute (Kevin Nugent) and Child Trends (Jessica Bartlett), were recently awarded NIH funding to assess the benefits of a family wellness intervention for parents of late preterm infants in the Baby AMOR Study: Improving Outcomes for the Late Preterm Infant.

We welcomed several new faculty members. Bharati Sinha and Jennifer McGuirl joined the neonatology group in May 2018 and Alyssa Marshall joined us in June 2018. Jessica Ironman, MS, CCC-S, P, Feeding Therapist, joined the BWH NICU Speech and Language/Feeding service.

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Joe Chou received a well-deserved promotion to Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School.

Sara Bates and Davida Schiff both received K12 career development awards to study neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome.

Tufts Medical Center, Boston

Geoff Binney, faculty member in the Division of Neonatology, has been named Acting Chair of Pediatrics at Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts.

We congratulate our graduating fellows! Hayley Friedman will be joining the faculty at Washington University. Kike Babata is joining the group at UT Southwestern, and Ruby Bartholome is going across town to our colleagues at Boston Medical Center. Thanks to all of you for your great work at Tufts!

Jonathan Davis is the PI for the Tufts $56 million CTSA grant. The grant application received a perfect score, thanks in large part to activities in Pediatrics and Neonatology.

Jill Maron and Jonathan Davis are receiving an $8 million grant from NIH for precision medicine in the NICU, supporting a multicenter trial examining rapid whole exome and genome sequencing compared to a targeted next generation sequencing panel in the diagnosis of suspected genetic disorders.

University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center, Worcester

The University of Massachusetts Medical Center is pleased to welcome two new fellows to the program, starting July 1. Megan Horgan attended University of Massachusetts Medical School and stayed there for pediatric residency, where she was this past year’s Chief Resident. Sarah Davenport attended Thomas Jefferson Medical School and did her residency at Emory. Prior to starting fellowship, she spent a few years as the Chief of Pediatric Hospitalists at Cape Cod Hospital and then Chief of Pediatrics at Landmark Medical.

Alexander Procaskey is graduating from his fellowship this spring. He will be joining the faculty of South Coast Health and South Shore Hospital as an attending neonatologist.

Lawrence Rhein completed the Physician Leadership Development Program, a partnership between Worcester Polytechnical Institute and UMASS.

Kate Sullivan completed the UMASS Junior Faculty Physician Development Program.

Javed Mannan received a grant from the UMASS Office of Technology Commercialization and Ventures for his prototype device to limit the effects of phototherapy on patent ductus arteriosus.

The UMASS NICU was the recipient of this year’s UMASS Winter Ball, which raised over $500,000 for the NICU.

RHODE ISLAND

Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, Providence

Catherine Buck, 2nd year fellow, was awarded the Richard D. Rowe Clinical Research Award by the Society of Pediatric Research as the top submitted abstract in that category to the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting.

From March 5-9, 2018, Ravi D’Cruz, 2nd year neonatology fellow, participated in the Department of Family Medicine’s contingent at the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) educational outreach effort at Webuye County Hospital, Webuye, Kenya.

Shi-Ben Cheng has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Pediatrics (research).

Martin Keszer was an invited participant in the First Neonatology Scientific Conference/ IPOPNeonatalTES Seminar in cooperation with the Pediatric Society of Ghana in Accra, Ghana in November 2017; the 14th Conference on Pediatric and Neonatal Mechanical Ventilation held in Montreux, Switzerland in April 2018; and at the IPOPNeonatalTES Clinical Seminar on neonatal
Diedre O'Reilly is leading the Division in actively assessing the contribution of social determinants of health to neonatal outcomes, piloting food insecurity screening in our neonatal follow-up clinic alongside Anne Johnston, Whitney Barkhuff, and Susan White. Leslie Young continues her work as a co-investigator for the ACT-NOW (Advancing Clinical Trials in Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal) Collaborative, celebrating the planned expansion of the collaborative under the recently launched NIH HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) initiative.

Judy Aschner is a member of the NHLBI Board of External Experts, charged to provide input on the Institute's strategic research priorities and guidance on scientific opportunities that the NHLBI is poised to catalyze.

Judy Aschner delivered the Jerry Elliot Memorial Lecture entitled, “The Canary in the Coal Mine: The Value of Preterm Infant Environmental Health Cohorts,” at the AAP 42nd Southeastern Conference on Perinatal Research in Clearwater Beach, FL on February 7, 2018. She was also a speaker at the IPoKraTES conference held in Porto, Portugal in April.

Congratulations to Priyam Pattaik and his mentor Robert Angert on being awarded the 1st prize NYU-Winthrop Award for Innovation in Neonatal Research, Quality Improvement Competition for “NICU to Home Discharge Communication: A Quality Improvement Project.”

Cohen Children’s Medical Center of New York/Northwell Health, New Hyde Park

Wishing all the best to our graduating fellows! Naomi Cohen is joining Jacobi Medical Center, Bronx, NY. Mary Haggerty is going to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Diana Maffei will continue as faculty at Cohen Children’s Medical Center of NY. Mariana Brewer is going to do a research fellowship at Feinstein Institute of Medical Research at Northwell Health, NY.

For their QI work on BPD prevention and decreasing antibiotic use in the NICU, Mariana Brewer and Naomi Cohen were awarded 1st and 2nd prize respectively at NYU-Winthrop Issues in Neonatology 25th Annual New York Regional Neonatal/Perinatal Symposium in March 2018.

After 40 years as neonatologist and 32 year at Cohen Children’s Medical Center, Jerrold (Jerry) Schlessel is retiring at the end of June. In addition to inspiring and training multiple generations of neonatologists, Jerry was one of the founding physicians of High Risk Newborn Clinic and Neonatal Follow-Up and he continued his work there until May 2017. Jerry will be greatly missed, he plans to retire in Manhattan and further explore his love of art and culture.

Mohamed Ahmed, Olena Predtechenska, and Loanne Tran, along with NNP Donna Baranek and nurses Tesi Thomas and Geyda Teriyaki, were invited to Magdy Yacoub’s Foundation in Aswam Heart Center, Egypt to provide expert help with neonatal care in March. Our team started, and continues to lead, several programs at this center of excellence to combat heart disease in Egypt, including CLABSI prevention, skin care, pain management, and neonatal nutrition program.

Vital Boyar was featured in June 2018 on Good Morning America highlighting her work with Manuka honey and neonatal wounds. Dr. Boyar also organized and ran a workshop on neonatal and pediatric wound care at National Wound Care Symposium in March and at Cutting Edge...
of Perinatal and Neonatal Conference in June, both at Hempstead, NY.

Howard Heiman spoke on high risk pediatric and neonatal transport at NY Downstate Association for Respiratory Therapists Annual Symposium, Brooklyn, NY in March. He has led a workshop on high frequency transport and presented on aeromedical transport physiology at Neonatal/Pediatric Transport Conference in May in Austin, TX.

Richard Schanler spoke at the Baylor College of Medicine National Neonatal Nutrition Conference on “Updates on Human Milk Fortifiers” in March in Houston, TX. He presented lectures at Lurie Children's Hospital at Northwestern and at Evanston Hospital on topics of human milk feeding in preterm infants in March. At the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Toronto, Dr. Schanler was one of the speakers at the invited science symposium on “Controversies in Neonatal Nutrition” on May 6.

Maria Fairen Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla

Congratulations to 2nd year fellow Sharina Rajbandari who was awarded the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research Young Investigator Award at the ESPR annual meeting in Philadelphia in March.

Congratulations to 2nd year fellow Shaili Amatya for receiving first prize for her oral presentations at the New York Perinatal Society meeting on April 26, 2018.

Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow

Rita Verma was appointed as Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at NYIT School of Medicine, Long Island, NY in 2017. She works at Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow, NY as attending neonatologist and Director of Research for the Department of Pediatrics residency training program.

Rita Verma presented at VIIIth Recent Advances in Neonatal Medicine Meeting, Würzburg, Germany, October 8-10, 2017 and will be a keynote speaker at 17th Annual World Congress on Neonatology on June 27-28, 2018 in Vancouver, Canada and Euro-Global Conference on Pediatrics and Neonatology on September 13-15, 2018 in Rome, Italy.

Stony Brook Children's Hospital

Congratulations to Shanthy Sriradh who was promoted to Professor of Clinical Pediatrics.

Echezona Maduekwe and Jonathan Mintzer were awarded Department of Pediatrics Intramural Grants for their clinical research projects.

We proudly announce the following graduating fellows: Jozan Brathwaite will be joining the Neonatology Department at Grenada General Hospital in St George’s, Grenada. Laura Stabin will be joining the Envision Healthcare Alabama Neonatal Division at the Baptist Health System in Montgomery, AL.

Welcome to our incoming fellows! Hormuz A. Nicolwala is from the residency program at West Virginia University, Margaret O. Pearce is from Richmond University Medical Center. Ray Lengvillas is coming from his position at the Central Neighborhood Health Foundation in San Bernardino, CA.

University of Rochester Golisano Children's Hospital

Carl D'Angio is the lead investigator on a supplement to our Clinical and Translational Science Award entitled, “Facilitation of IRB Review for Multi-Site Clinical Research.”

Blair Germaine, a rising 3rd year fellow, received an award from the Landsman Foundation to support her research on metabolic bone disease of prematurity. In addition to funding the purchase of equipment for this project, she has established a research collaboration with investigators in Israel, one of the aims of this Foundation.

Peri Ulema and Mallory Prideaux, 2nd year fellows, were both awarded a Dean’s Fellow grant. The Dean’s Fellow Award is granted to a 1st year fellow who shows promise in research.

We are looking forward to welcoming Alison Kent to Rochester in July 2018. She comes to us from Canberra, Australia, to head our clinical research endeavors. Her interests include acute kidney injury in neonates, retinopathy of prematurity, and perinatal palliative care.

Laura Price will be remaining in Rochester after completing her fellowship. She will be the Associate Medical Director of the NICU and will be focused on broadening our Neuro NICU, including provision of therapeutic hypothermia on transport.

Kiko Miura will be relocating to Boise, ID as a neonatologist after completing her fellowship in Rochester.

We will be welcoming three first year fellows in July: Diana Huang (residency at Jacobi Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY); Shiko Kutsuwada (residency at Sparrow Hospital, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI) and Moïna Snyder (residency at Driöck Children's Hospital, Corpus Christie, TX). In May, we honored Dale Phelps and Bill Maniscalco, former Chairs of the Division of Neonatology, at a festschrift that recalled their many contributions to both clinical care and basic science during their careers. Dozens of former faculty and trainees returned to Rochester to celebrate these two remarkable individuals. In addition, Ruth Lawrence was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award for all she has done for neonates over her tenure in Rochester.

DISTRICT III:

Susan Aucott

DELAWARE

Christiana Care Health System, Wilmington

John Stefano will be retiring and resigning the Directorship in Neonatology at Christiana Care on June 30th 2018. Michael Antunes will assume the Directorship at that time.

Rob Locke will be retiring June 30th, 2018.

Stephen Pearlman will be resigning his position as a neonatologist on June 30th 2018. He will be assuming a system-wide position in patient safety.

Stephen Pearlman has helped to develop the WECAN group for well-established career neonatologists, those > 50 years old or > 18 years out of training. He held the initial meeting at the Neonatal Perinatal Practice Strategies Workshop in Scottsdale, AZ, where issues of concern to neonatologists in this stage of their career were discussed.

Fellow Margaret Lafferty received the Boggs Award from the Philadelphia Perinatal Society for her work examining infants exposed to classical music in the NICU setting.

Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington

Daniel R. Dirnberger gave two international presentations on ECMO transport at the 7th International Congress of EuroELSO in Prague, May 2018.

Mark Ogino has been an invited lecturer at the following international conferences: 5th Annual SWAC ELSO Conference, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India (January 2018); IRCAD America Latina ECMO Course, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (March 2018); ELSO International Education Group Inaugural Meeting, Santiago, Chile (April 2018).

Mark Ogino is President-Elect of the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) and will begin his term in September 2018.

Mark Ogino received a 2018 Best Doctors in America Award.

Joanna Costa has been elected to the Board of the March of Dimes Delaware Chapter.

Beth O'Donnell joined Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children as an attending neonatologist in July 2017. Dr. O'Donnell completed her pediatric residency as well as her neonatal-perinatal medicine fellowship in the Sidney Kimmel Medical College/Nemours program. Dr. O’Donnell serves as our Fellowship Education Coordinator.

Aaron Yee joined Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children as an attending neonatologist in December 2017. Dr. Yee completed his pediatric residency at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY and completed his fellowship training in neonatal-perinatal medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Congratulations to Beth O'Donnell and Aaron Yee who passed their boards in May!

Sudha Raman, Chief for Nemours at Phoenixville Hospital, received the Service Excellence Award in Community Service at Nemours Annual Physician Service Excellence Ceremony in April.
MARYLAND
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Children’s Center, Baltimore

We are pleased to welcome Akhil Maheshwari as the new Division Chief of the Division of Neonatology. Dr. Maheshwari is joining us from the University of South Florida, where he has been the Chief of the Division of Neonatology. He completed his medical school education at Banaras Hindu University, followed by a pediatric residency at the University of Florida, and his fellowship at the University of South Florida. His career in academic neonatology has included faculty positions at the University of Alabama and at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he additionally served as the Division Chief. Dr Maheshwari has a strong record of accomplishment in basic science research. He specializes in NEC, identifying how the bowel inflammatory response differs in premature infants and examining factors that contribute to the hyper-inflammatory nature of the macrophage response.

We bid a fond farewell to our graduating fellows: Sara Munoz Bianco will be continuing at Johns Hopkins as a fellow in Pediatric Palliative Care. May Chen will be joining the faculty at Johns Hopkins and continuing her work in non-invasive monitoring. Jackie Salas will be heading to New York to join the faculty at Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. May Chen was awarded the Schwenker Award for excellence in research for the Department of Pediatrics. This is the top research award among all trainees in the Department.

We are excited to welcome our new fellows beginning in July: Janine Bernardo, who completed her residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Katherine Carlin, who completed her residency at United States Air Force-Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA; Pallabi Guha, who completed her residency at INOVA Children’s Hospital, Fairfax, VA; Ayesha Saya, who completed her Residency at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Providence, RI. Raul Chavez-Valdez was awarded the ESPR Faculty Young Investigator Award.

Frances Northington was awarded the Department of Pediatrics George Dover Faculty Mentoring award. This is an outstanding honor and recognition for all those whose careers she has touched and guided.

Larry Nogee was recognized for his incredible dedication to teaching the residents and was on the Honor Roll of House Staff Teachers.

Laura Seske joined the Division in February as a Clinical Associate. Laura completed her fellowship at Cincinnati Children’s.

University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore

University of Maryland Medical Center has welcomed the former Prince George’s Hospital into the UMMC family as University of Maryland Prince George’s Hospital and their Level III NICU has become part of the UMMC practice.

The Division of Neonatology at UMMC has expanded and we welcomed Eunsun Cho (previously worked at Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine at Hofstra University), Johana Diaz (fellowship trained at Johns Hopkins) and Erin Schofield (fellowship trained at University of Alabama) to our group. We also welcomed Olayemi Ajayi (fellowship trained at University of Maryland), Temitope Akinbomi (previously worked at Johns Hopkins) and Jacqueline Skelton (fellowship trained at SUNY Downstate Children’s Hospital, Brooklyn, NY) as new faculty associates to University of Maryland Prince George’s Hospital.

Cynthia Bearer continues to be the Editor-in-Chief of Pediatric Research. She just submitted an R01 based on her exciting results from her R21 on the mechanism of bilirubin neurotoxicity in preterm infants.

Cynthia Bearer started a bee hive in the Rockrose Community Garden. Do you know that a queen bee who is fertile and lays thousands of eggs, was actually a worker larva that was fed royal jelly? It’s all epigenetic and shows that it’s really important what nutrition our babies get!

Natalie Davis has been invited to speak as an expert on infant car seats at the 2018 KIDZ-IN-MOTION National Child Passenger Safety Conference in Boulder, CO in August. She will be presenting a workshop on “Child Passenger Safety in the Hospital Setting” to technicians, nurses, and physicians, and will discuss her expertise related to car seat tolerance screening of high risk neonates including history, current research, and best practice recommendations for hospital-based programs.

Sripriya Sundararajan assisted with planning a plenary session on “Enhanced Placental Transfusion in Resource-Limited Settings: Reducing Barriers to Implementation of Delayed Cord Clamping” and presented her experience from Chennai, India at the Pediatric Academic Society meeting in Toronto, Canada in May 2018.

NEW JERSEY
MidAtlantic Neonatology Associates, Morristown

The 11th Annual neoFORUM was held May 17-18th at Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ. This year’s conference, held over two days, brought together a diverse group of neonatal care professionals (210+ daily) and featured a thought-provoking discussion of Neonatology – Past, Present and Future. The conference opened with first-hand accounts of monumental and formative discoveries in neonatology presented by nationally-recognized pioneers in the field: Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos, Drexel University, and George Gregory, University of California San Francisco. It included a robust research component focused on neonatal respiratory and nutritional care with: Barbara Schmidt, University of Pennsylvania; Deborah O’Connor, University of Toronto; and Haresh M. Kirpalani, University of Pennsylvania. Tonse N. K. Raju, National Institute of Health, provided insight into ongoing, multi-center trials in perinatology and neonatology. Alan W. Flake, University of Pennsylvania, closed the conference with a description of his groundbreaking research in extending gestation in an extra-uterine environment.

Over the past several years, energy and enthusiasm for the neoFORUM Poster Symposium has continued to grow, to the point that it has evolved into a robust training experience. We had 45 presenters this year, each was assigned a mentor chosen from the list of distinguished speakers. Presenters had the opportunity to discuss their posters with their mentor and 5 AAP sponsored awards were given for top poster submissions. Award winners were: Alla Kushnir, neonatologist, Cooper University Hospital; Ezra Dayan, medical student, Rutgers University-New Jersey Medical School; Eduardo Fastag-Gutman, pediatric resident, St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital; Linda Levy, NNP, CHOP Newborn Care Virtua; and Naureen Memon, neonatologist, Goryeb Children’s Hospital.

Pennsylvania
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

The Division of Neonatology at CHOP welcomes the following new faculty: Mary Haggerty, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, graduating from the Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program at the University of Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and her fellowship at Johns Hopkins. Barbara Schmidt and Haresh Kirpalani have officially retired from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and the Division of Neonatology and have returned...
Erik Jensen and Michael Padula were both elected into membership of the Society for Pediatric Research.

Rebecca Simmons is the recipient of the first annual Schmidt-Kirpalani Faculty Mentoring Award. This award was presented to Dr. Simmons at the Neonatology Research Symposium honoring the clinical research work of Drs. Barbara Schmidt and Haresh Kirpalani.

The following faculty in neonatology have been named to CHOPs Early Career Faculty Honor Roll: Erik Brandsma, Sara DeMauro, John Filbette, Elizabeth Foglia, and Jennifer James.

DD Weinberg, Clinical Research Coordinator for HUP Neonatology, is the recipient of the Rising Star Award from the University of Pennsylvania for her work related to newborn resuscitation research at HUP under the mentorship of Elizabeth Foglia.

Huayan Zhang was an invited international lecturer at the 1st Global Chinese Neonatal Medicine Summit on April 27th and the 8th National Conference of Chinese Neonatologist Association on March 30th.

Elizabeth Foglia was an invited speaker at the Canadian Pediatric Society Annual meeting, in May in Quebec City, Canada and the Royal Children’s Hospital Parkville Neonatal Grand Rounds in April in Melbourne, Australia.

Maria Fraga was an invited international speaker at Bedside Ultrasound Workshop in Pediatric Emergency, Neonatal, and Intensive Care Medicine, Children’s University Hospital of Bern, Switzerland and British Association of Paediatric Surgeons 64th Annual Congress, London, England.

Maria Fraga was a Platform Judge, presented in a functional echocardiography workshop and was a Meet the Experts panel member in India.

Maria Fraga gave two lectures at 10th Curso Internacional de Pediatría 2018, Puebla City, Puebla, Mexico.

Congratulations to our graduating fellows! Osa Ekhaguere has taken a position as Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Riley Children’s Hospital, Indiana University. He will be involved in global health research, primarily in Kenya and Nigeria. Dustin Flannery has been appointed Clinical Associate with the Division of Neonatology at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and CHOP Newborn Care at Pennsylvania Hospital. He is also pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania, which is supported by a National Institutes of Health Training Grant. Sara Handley has taken a position as a Clinical Associate with the Division of Neonatology at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She is also pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania, which is supported by a National Institutes of Health Training Grant. Valerie Handley will be a Penn Medicine Clinician and attending neonatologist and Medical Director of the Neonatal Follow-up Program at CHOP Newborn Care at Lancaster General Women and Babies Hospital. Melissa Schmatz will be a Penn Medicine Clinician and attending neonatologist at CHOP Newborn Care at Virtua Voorhees Hospital.

Neonatology welcomes the following first year fellows to the Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia: Morgan Brown (pediatric residency at CHOP, house doc in neonatology 2017-18), Sarah Coggins (pediatric residency at CHOP), Rachel Flynn (pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital at Montefiore), Carolyn Mize (pediatric residency at Yale New Haven Hospital, neonatal hospitalist in Bhutan 2016-17), Tom Pawlowski (pediatric residency at CHOP), and Michelle-Marie Pena (pediatric residency and Chief Resident at CHOP).

Heidi Herrick received the AAP Neonatal Resuscitation Program Young Investigator Award for her grant proposal, “Impact of Flow Disruptions in the Delivery Room.”

Sara DeMauro received funding from the Thrasher Foundation for her study, “The Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia Saturation Targeting (BPD STAR) Trial.”

Erik Jensen has been awarded a NIH K23 grant for his study, “Microbiome of the Airway and the Risk for Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia in the Lungs of Extreme Preterm: The MARBLE Risk for Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia in the Lungs of Extreme Preterms: The MARBLE Risk.”

Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital Division Head, Jeff Kaiser is pleased to announce that Chintant Ghandhi will be joining the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine following completion of his fellowship at Michigan State University.

Program Director, Kristen Glass and the entire division welcome Kim Wisecup and Rina Patel-Duke as our incoming fellows.

Outgoing fellow Payal Trivedi will be joining the neonatology group at Aultman Hospital in Canton, OH.

Outgoing fellow Sarah Beaudoin will be moving to the Bay Area of California to join East Bay Newborn Specialists.

Charles Palmer received a $50,000 grant for development of his ThoracicLine device from the Invent Penn State Venture Tech Tournament.

Tammy Corr and Christiana Oji-Mmuo have been doing multiple television interviews regarding their work in NAS and the current opioid epidemic.

Christiana Oji-Mmuo won the Young Investigator Award during the recent Penn State Department of Pediatrics Research Day.

Mitchel Kresch and Sarah Sweigart are currently working with the Office of Medical Education to develop a Physician Assistant Fellowship in Neonatal Medicine.

Liz Matteson was named the new Lead APC for the NICU.
Suhasini Kaushal, Assistant Professor, received the SPR Diversity Award in Toronto.

Morarji Peesay, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, received his Cura Personalis Fellowship Certificate after undergoing a rigorous one year course here at Georgetown University Medical Center.

Kabir Abubakar received the prestigious Teacher of the Year Award and our fellow Caitlin Drumm received the Fellow Teacher of the Year Award.

Graduating fellow Caitlin Drumm will be moving to San Antonio, TX as part of the military system and Stephanie Sheppard will taking up a position at Holy Cross Hospital in Maryland.

Albert and Debbie Tano made a significant donation to establish the Endowed NPM Fellow Research Fund.

**District IV: Cherrie Welch**

**KENTUCKY**

University of Kentucky, Lexington

UK Healthcare has opened a dedicated Neonatal Abstinence Care Unit (NACU) at the Kentucky Children’s Hospital. The NACU, a secure unit consisting of 8 private rooms, opened October 10, 2017 and has provided care to nearly 150 babies and their families who are at risk or require treatment for neonatal abstinence syndrome. Each room has sleeping accommodations for two adult caregivers and uses a family-driven care model for treatment with active family or appointed caregivers participating in all treatment decisions. Around the clock care by parents or appointed caregivers is encouraged and caregivers are taught skills in behavioral and comfort care including infant massage, music therapy, Kangaroo care, Happiest Baby on the Block, and Jin Shin Jyutsu. Art therapy, child life services, Sleep-Endotracheal Intubation: Enhancing Training through Computer Simulation and Automated Evaluation.”

Billie Lou Short is on the Planning Committee for the 10th Annual Children’s Hospitals Neonatal Consortium (CHNC) Quaternary NICU Quality and Research Symposium at Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, OH. October 22–24, 2018. Registration and abstract submission can be found at http://www.cvcent.com/d/vgqngzg

Billie Lou Short is the Chair of the Planning Committee for the 35th Annual CNMC Symposium: ECMO & The Advanced Therapies for Cardiovascular and Respiratory Failure, in Keystone CO, February 24-28, 2019, registration and abstract submission can be found at www.ecmomeeting.com

K. Rais-Bahrami and Mariam Said received a grant from NIH/NHLBI sponsored by Transonic for the study of “Cardiac Monitor for VA ECMO Pediatric and Neonatal Patients.”

Lamia Soghier and the Perinatal Mental Health Taskforce received a $20,320 grant from the Children’s Health Board to expand a screening program for postpartum depression to the NICU and Emergency Department.

Panos Kratimenos has been accepted for participation in the SPR mentoring program.

Georgetown

Lew Rubin, a physician-scientist and clinician scholar, is joining our group as Professor of Pediatrics starting August 1st. He was the Chief of Neonatology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. He will be focused on clinical care, research (both basic science and clinical) and teaching at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital.

Timothy Palmer completed the Harvard Macy Institute Program for Educators in Health Professions.

St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, Philadelphia

Vineet Bhandari has been selected as one of the American Pediatric Society representatives on the PAS Program Committee and as a member of the NIH Director’s New Innovator Award and LR3 study sections.

Vineet Bhandari presented the Elizabeth Sprague Lectureship entitled, “Microbiomimetics, Metabolomics and MicroRNAs: Opening a New Window into BPD” at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and was an invited faculty at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia/Virtua Small Baby Symposium: State of the Art.

Vineet Bhandari is the PI of a Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement (CURE) formula grant to study the role of miR-34a in senescence associated with bronchopulmonary dysplasia.

Alison Carey received an Early Career Clinical Scientist Award from Drexel University. This award is presented to an early or mid-career level faculty member who has already made a significant contribution to the field of biomedical research, educational research, quality improvement, community engagement, and/or health care research, as evidenced by funding, scholarly productivity and research leadership.

Margaret Gilfillan was awarded the Mary DeWitt Pettit Fellowship from Drexel University College of Medicine for her project entitled. The $10,000 fellowship supports research or other special projects of junior female faculty members at the Drexel University College of Medicine and is intended to provide the recipient with the opportunity to acquire additional credentials necessary to advance in academic rank.

Geisinger, Danville

Patrick Spitaline joined Kerry Weiss and Mark Pearlman in the Department of Neonatology in February 2018 at Geisinger Wyoming Valley (GWV) Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Recruitment continues to provide continuous in-house coverage needed to advance the level of NICU care provided from level II to level III by the summer of 2019. The NICU at GWV will provide support to a new delivery service opening at Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton by the end of calendar year 2019. 

Lauren Johnson is the acting Medical Director for the GWV NICU.

Eileen Tengco has been awarded $45,000 to expand the neonatal simulation program to enhance resident education and outreach to community hospitals.

James Cook has been appointed as Director of Newborn Services, with the responsibility of integrating clinical care in newborn nurseries and neonatal intensive care units throughout the Geisinger Health System.

Ed Everett has been appointed as the Director of the Department of Neonatology based at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA.

Sece Malecela has been appointed as the Director of the Center for Prenatal Pediatrics, our multidisciplinary prenatal diagnostic and counseling program based in Danville, PA.

WASHINGTON, DC

Children’s National Medical Center

Three attending faculty will be joining our program. Nneka I. Nzegwu will be joining the Division in August. She had completed her fellowship at Yale, followed by training in Patient Safety and Quality from Harvard University.

Simranjeet Sran and Gillian Abrams will be staying on after their fellowship training with us to join our faculty.

Three new neonatology fellows will join us in July; Neena Jube from St. Christopher’s, Philadelphia; Elisabeth Anson, Children’s National Medical Center pediatric hospitalist; Caitlin Armstrong from Children’s National Medical Center.

Lamia Soghier, Co-PI, was awarded NIH R-01 funding for the grant entitled, “Neonatal Endotracheal Intubation: Enhancing Training through Computer Simulation and Automated Evaluation.”

Billie Lou Short is on the Planning Committee for the 10th Annual Children’s Hospitals Neonatal Consortium (CHNC) Quaternary NICU Quality and Research Symposium at Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, OH. October 22–24, 2018. Registration and abstract submission can be found at http://www.cvcent.com/d/vgqngzg

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The brand new Betti Ruth Robinson Taylor Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the University of Kentucky is a 36,000 square-foot facility that opened April 29, 2018 and replaces the previous NICU. The new NICU has 66 individual patient rooms and two twin rooms for a total of 70 beds. Each room has a daybed so parents can stay with their babies as much as possible. Other amenities include circadian rhythm lighting that mimics natural light cycles benefiting babies in their development, weight gain, and growth while reducing crying and fussiness; parent lounge, kitchen, laundry, and shower facilities; and two care-by-parent rooms to help parents transition into caring for their child on their own before discharge. This new...
state-of-the-art NICU is the result of the careful collaboration for which UK HealthCare is known. Invaluable input from our staff and patient families culminated in this space, an integral piece of supporting UK’s mission to provide advanced patient care.

**University of Louisville**

Scott Duncan has been named Chief of the Division of Neonatal Medicine effective July 1, 2018. He will be replacing David Adamkin, who has been Chief for 24 years. Dr. Duncan joined the University of Louisville Department of Pediatrics in 2004, became the Associate Director of the Child & Adolescent Health Research Design & Support (CAHRRDS) Unit in 2013, and was appointed Associate Chief, Director of Neonatal Clinical Operations in 2015. He was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics in July 2017 and became a Commonwealth Scholar at the U of L School of Public Health.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Coastal Carolina Neonatology, Wilmington

Fernando Moya lectured at Neo Conference and Neonatology Specialty Review in Orlando, FL in February 2018.

Fernando Moya was elected Vice-President of the Southeastern Association of Neonatologists

**Duke University, Durham**

Mike Cotten took over for Ron Goldberg as Division Chief in September 2017, which is ironic because Ron was instrumental in Mike’s becoming a neonatologist as he was Mike’s first attending in the NICU at Jackson Memorial in medical school in the 1980’s. Ron continues as Medical Director of the Duke NICU and Director of the Fellowship Program.

Jennifer Peterson joined our group from Cleveland Clinic. She had been a pediatric resident at Duke and completed fellowship at Rainbow/Case Western before joining Cleveland Clinic where she was Medical Director at Hillcrest Hospital. She is Associate Medical Director of the NICU at Duke.

This summer we are welcoming Mollie Warren as the 4th pediatrician for our Transitional Medical Home Program which provides care in the first year post-NICU discharge to kids with complex medical needs.

Fellows graduating this year include Ryan Heinrich, who will bring his clinical and programming skills to the Pediatrix Medical Group and Children’s Hospital and Banner University Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ.

Megan Berube will join the faculty at University of Wisconsin and lead development of their Neuro-NICU. Mihai Puia Dumitrescu will join the faculty at University of Washington.

We will welcome two new fellows from Duke’s residency program, Agnes Chao and Laura Miller. Sarah Bernhardt will join us from University of Illinois Chicago.

Brian Smith was named the Sam Katz Professor of Pediatrics this year. This is a great and well-deserved award for Brian, who leads the coordinating center for the $100 million-plus Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) project, and was also awarded the multimillion dollar award to lead the coordinating center for the NIH-funded Institutional Development Award (IDeA) states clinical trial network.

A discrete event simulation model of the NICU developed by David Tanaka and collaborators at SAS took top honors at the 2017 NC Tech Awards, winning the NC Technology Association’s Beacon Award for best use of technology in analytics.

Rachel Greenberg was awarded funding by the CDC to do a multicenter trial of safety of vaccinations in the NICU.

We continue work with our partner sites in the NICHD Neonatal Research Network (WakeMed and UNC) and are currently enrolling in the preemie hypothermia trial, darbepoetin for neuroprotection in premature infants trial, and the ongoing generic database.

Matt Laughon (at UNC) is leading the NRN’s soon-to-start PDA management trial.

In the past year, Duke presented at abstracts at the VON Quality Congress. Kamlesh Athavale leads our antimicrobial stewardship efforts and presented our work in Chicago.

Margarita Bidegain worked with neonatology and obstetric colleagues in the Perinatal Quality Collaborative of North Carolina to hone in on the racial and economic disparities in antenatal steroid exposures in level II’s and III’s, and has initiated a bigger QI project to take on this challenge.

Our major clinical undertaking in the coming year is to partner with cardiologists, pediatric cardiac critical care specialists and pediatric heart surgeons to develop the NICU aspects and follow-up program for the Duke Pediatric and Congenital Heart Center, which adds it’s third heart surgeon in the fall.

East Carolina University, Greenville

Ryan Moore has taken over as Division Chief at ECU.

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston Salem

Angelina Sprewell from Marshall University, Huntington, WV and Joseph Torres from Flushing Medical Center, Flushing, NY will be joining our fellowship this fall.


Amit Chandel will be joining our faculty in September 2018

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston

We are sorry to announce that Sarah Taylor, last year’s SSPR President, will be moving to Yale University Division of Neonatology to be the Director of Clinical Research for the Division.

Sarah’s expertise in the area of neonatal nutrition and human milk will be sorely missed by the babies at MUSC in addition to all of her colleagues in the southeast. We wish her all the best in Connecticut!

Carol Wagner was an invited speaker in Barcelona at the Vitamin D Workshop, an annual international event.

Rita Ryan was honored to speak at the NeoPREP conference this year in Atlanta on “Surfactant Biology and RDS” and “Lung Development and What Could Go Wrong.”

The NeoPharm Conference, in beautiful Charleston, SC, will be held November 5-7, 2019. Please note it is Monday-Wednesday this year (rather than the usual Wednesday-Friday) due to hotel issues. We will again have Reese Clark and Rita Ryan as speakers as well as Jim Wynn from University of Florida Gainesville, and Sarah Taylor from Yale.

**TENNESSEE**

University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville

Mark Anderson is retiring after 32 years of service.

Brett Kothe, from St Louis University, is joining our group.

Mark Gaylord was recognized as one of four outstanding alumni of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in 2017.

Vanderbilt University, Nashville

Scott Guthrie was an invited speaker at the Annual Pediatric Review Conference in Amman, Jordan. Topics included prevention of kernicterus, less invasive surfactant administration, and improving care with neonatal simulation training.

Christoph Lehmann was inducted as a Founding Fellow of the first class of the International Academy of Health Information Sciences. The Academy will serve as an honor society that recognizes expertise in biomedical and health informatics internationally. Academy Membership is one of the highest honors in the international field of biomedical and health informatics.

Christoph Lehmann was named an Expert Advisor for the HRSA’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s Design Challenge for the Care Planning and Coordination for Children with Special Health Care Needs.

Christoph Lehmann was the organizer and Chair of the Inaugural Meeting of the International Academy of Health Sciences in Gothenburg, Sweden in April.

Kudos to Stephen Patrick for a successful transition from K23 to R01. His grant from NIH/ NIDA is entitled, “Improving Access to Treatment for Women with Opioid Use Disorder.”

Jayant Shenai is retiring after 40 years of service and will continue to be a valuable member of our group as Professor Emeritus as of August 1, 2018.
Jennifer Sucre was awarded the Parker B. Francis Fellowship ($156,000) from the Francis Family Foundation (awarded May 2018) on Wnt Signaling in Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia.

Hendrik Weitkamp has assumed the responsibility for Course Director for the 38th Annual Neonatology Symposium. This symposium was created and sustained for over 37 years by Jay Shenai.

Congratulations to Hendrik Weitkamp and Scott Guthrie for their efforts as site investigators for the clinical trial, “Comparison of Aerosol Delivery of Infasurf to Usual Care in Spontaneously Breathing RDS Patients” (AERO-Aerosol Delivery of Infasurf to Usual Care in RDS Patients). They successfully enrolled 21 babies at Vanderbilt and 32 at the NICU in Jackson, TN for a total of 53 of the 458 patients in this trial.

Matthew Kielt was named Chief Fellow for 2018-19.

Kristen Noble successfully competed for the prestigious Pediatric Scientist Development Program Award sponsored by the NICHD, AAP, APS, Sick Kids Foundation, March of Dimes, and the Associations of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs and of Pediatric Chairs of Canada. The title of her proposal is, “Defining the Role of Fetal and Maternal Macrophages in Group B Streptococcal Chorioamnionitis.”

We bid warm wishes to Mary Lauren Neel who, after completing her fellowship and Masters of Science in Clinical Investigations, leaves Vanderbilt to join the faculty at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

Jeff Reese serves as President of the Perinatal Research Society. Membership in the PRS is open to MDs and PhDs with active research in all aspects of perinatal biology. The annual PRS meeting will be held in Denver, CO on Sept. 7-8, 2018.

Uchenna Anani, Holly Engelstad, Emily Morris, and Lauren Sanlenerzo are joining the Division of Neonatology as Assistant Professors in July 2018.

We welcome our new fellows: Meredith Campbell, University of Florida College of Medicine and residency at Mayo Clinic; Lindsey Knake, University of Iowa College of Medicine and residency at Baylor College of Medicine; Lindsay Sernard, Medical College of Georgia and residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; and Keadrea Wilson, University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine and residency at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Save the date for the Neonatology Symposium to be held November 8-9, 2018 in Music City! Guest speakers include: Danny Benjamin, Duke University; Eric Eichenwald, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Cassandra Joesphson, Emory University; Jae Kim, University of California San Diego; and Stephen Loyd, Tennessee Division of Substance Abuse Services.

For further information on content and registration, contact Mary Keener (mary.keener@vumc.org).

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis
Jennifer Davidson is joining the Division of Neonatology as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics.

The 14th Annual Complex Newborn Conference will be held Feb 1-2, 2019 at the Westin Memphis on Beale St.

Ajay Talati has assumed the role of Chief, Division of Neonatology and holds the Sheldon B. Korones Endowed Chair at UTHSC. He was also appointed as Vice Chair for Education for the Department of Pediatrics.

Ramasubbareddy Dhanireddy has been honored as UTHSC Distinguished Professor.

Ramesh Krishnan has been appointed the District 4 representative for the MidCAN group of the Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine.

Anna Slagle and Jennifer Davidson will be graduating from our fellowship program this year.

Bhuvneshwari Jagdesan will join as a fellow in July 2018.

Jennifer Davidson received the SPR Junior Section Clinical Research Award at the PAS annual meeting in Toronto, and also Best Abstract Award at the International PDA Symposium.

Kent Willis received the PAS travel grant for abstract presentation at the PAS annual meeting in Toronto and the 2018 Marshall Klaus Neonatal Perinatal Research Award.

VIRGINIA

University of Virginia, Charlottesville
Karen Fairchild presented on predictive monitoring and sepsis at the Multispecialty Neonatology Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE last November and also at the Intensive Care of the Newborn International Workshop in Verona, Italy in March 2018. She also co-led an excellent workshop at PAS in May on new technologies in the NICU.

David Kaufman once again led an engaging Sepsis Club at the PAS meeting on CMV.

Jonathan Swanson was named Neonatal Section Editor for the Journal of Perinatology and was recently elected to the Society for Pediatric Research.

Sarah Miller and Angela Michaels are completing their fellowships. Sarah will be staying on as faculty at UVA with a focus on neurodevelopmental outcomes. Angela will be joining the team at Henrico Doctor’s Hospital in Richmond, VA.

Three new fellows will be joining UVA this summer. They are Maryam Abubakar (Bronx Lebanon Hospital), Rupin Kumar (Monmouth Medical Center), and David McMurray (SUNY Downstate Brooklyn).

Congratulations to our graduating fellows! Esther Kisseih is joining Harvard medical faculty. Grace Lin is going to Valley Children’s Hospital (Fresno). Paola Huayante and Deepak Yadav are going to join a private group with Pediatrix Medical Group in the New Mexico/Texas area.

Mahesh Mahaseth received a travel grant for the 2018 PAS meeting.

Amit Sharma was selected for podium presentation at the 2018 PAS meeting.

Deepak Yadav received a Junior Investigator Award from Research Society on Alcoholism and a travel grant for the PAS meeting.

Sandra Juul is 2018 Dr. Sophie Womack Lecturer at Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

Sandra Juul was the invited speaker for the Dr. Sophie Womack Invited Lectureship at Children’s Hospital of Michigan on May 25, 2018. The title of her talk was, “Neuroprotective Strategies for High Risk Newborns.”

OHIO

MetroHealth Medical Center, Cleveland
MetroHealth Medical Center Neonatology Division and Cleveland Clinic Neonatology will co-host the 3rd Annual State-of-the-Art Reviews in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine conference at the Global Center for Health Innovation, Cleveland, OH on October 18-20, 2018. This year the conference will include a preconference workshop on ventilation strategies and renal replacement therapy in the newborn. The main conference will focus on preterm labor and birth, rare renal diseases, and neonatal abstinence syndrome. The conference faculty is nationally and internationally recognized.

We said fond goodbyes to our graduating fellows: Ankita Shukla joined Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Little Rock and Mugahid Ibrahim is relocating back to Ireland. We are proud of you both!

We welcomed our new 1st year fellows: Stacey Ramey and Mathavan Sivarajah.

Deepak Kumar was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine effective July 1, 2018.
The inaugural Sharon Groh-Wargo PhD Lectureship in Nutrition & Metabolism was held on March 12, 2018. Vadivel Ganapathy, Grover Murray Professor and Chair, Cell Biology and Biochemistry, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, lectured on, “Nutrient transporters and mTOR signaling in placenta.”

Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus

Sudarshan Jadhcherla, Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Division Chief of Neonatology at The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Nationwide Children’s Hospital, has been elected to be the President of Dysphagia Research Society. This is a 27-year old research society that advocates and supports research in swallowing disorders and aerodigestive pathologies. He is the 1st pediatrician (and therefore, the 1st neonatologist) to lead this society, which addresses problems across the age spectrum from pediatrics to geriatrics.

Nationwide Children’s Hospital welcomes graduating fellows Kristen Benninger and Briana Bertoni to our faculty. Dr. Benninger completed a master’s of medical science and will join our Center for Perinatal Research. Dr. Bertoni will be completing an advanced fellowship in quality improvement.

We welcome Amy Brown, Lindsey Korbel, and Alexandra Medoro to our fellowship!

Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, Cleveland

We bid a fond farewell to our graduating fellows! Brittany Schwarz, a recipient of the new Klaus Education Research Award, will take her talents to Johns Hopkins. Tara Glenn and Vidhi Shah will join our faculty at Rainbow. Allison Peluso continues as a fellow for a short time and is weighing great opportunities in the Cleveland area.

We are happy to welcome four new fellows to our training program now led by Kristin Voos and Allison Payne. Steven Conlon completed his residency at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, OH. Sean Curtis completed his residency at Children’s Mercy in Kansas City and has been working as a neonatal hospitalist there. Candice Guevara comes to us from the residency program at The University of Florida at Arnold Palmer Children’s Hospital. Zeyar Htun completed his residency at NYU Winthrop Hospital.

Richard Martin is this year’s Mary Ellen Avery Award recipient.

Mary Nock has been promoted to the rank of Professor of Pediatrics effective July 1, 2018.

Moira Crowley steps into the role of Co-Medical Director of the NICU, replacing Jonathan Fanaroff, on July 1.

Richard Martin is an invited speaker at neonatology conferences in Poznan, Poland in September; Shanghai, China in November; and Varanase, India in December 2018. In addition, he will co-chair the 10th International Neonatology Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, February 27 – March 1, 2019.

We welcome our new Chair of Pediatrics, Marlene Miller. Dr. Miller comes to UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital from the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center, where she served as Vice Chair of Quality and Safety for the Children’s Center and as Chief Quality Officer, Pediatrics, for the health system. She has received continuous funding for research in pediatric healthcare quality and has led numerous multi-institutional efforts in children’s hospitals throughout the U.S. focused on understanding and solving pediatric patient safety issues and developing sustainable solutions to improve the quality and value of clinical care. Dr. Miller received the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Award for Distinguished Service in 2002 and was named Paul V. Miles Fellow in Quality Improvement by the American Board of Pediatrics in 2014. She earned her bachelor’s and medical degrees at Case Western Reserve University. She completed her pediatric residency and fellowship in pediatric cardiology at Johns Hopkins and obtained her Master of Science degree in clinical investigation at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

District VI: Thomas George

SAVE THE DATE: Join us in Chicago for the 10th Annual District VI “Controversies in Neonatal Clinical Care” meeting scheduled for September 7-8, 2018.

ILLINOIS

Comer Children’s Hospital/University of Chicago

Joe Hageman is now on the Editorial Board of Neonatology Today edited by Mitchell Goldstein. He is the editor of “Monthly Clinical Pearls.”

Children’s Hospital of Illinois at OSF HealthCare/University of Illinois Peoria

Aarti Amlani joined as new faculty in our division. Aarti graduated fellowship from Advocate Lutheran in 2017.

Kamlesh Macwan, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, will be calling it a career after 28 years in Peoria.

Praveen Kumar was awarded a faculty mentor research award.

M. Jawad Javed has been named Division Head of Neonatology and the Medical Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

St. John’s Children’s Hospital/Southern Illinois University, Springfield

Pele Dina was enthusiastically welcomed to the faculty at SIU School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics within the Division of Neonatology. He completed his pediatric residency at SIU and returns to Springfield after finishing his fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Loyola University Chicago.

IOWA

University of Iowa Children’s Hospital/University of Iowa, Iowa City

The University of Iowa is in the process of some significant changes. We would like to announce that we have successfully recruited Patrick McNamara from SickKids/University of Toronto to join us as our next Division Director starting June 1st. Patrick has a strong academic track record in neonatal hemodynamics and we are excited to have him join our group. In addition to leading the Division, Patrick will be creating a Center for Neonatal Hemodynamics, including a new fellowship program. We would like to thank Steve McElroy for serving as Interim Division Director for the past 18 months. Steve did an exceptional job moving our program forward during this transitional period.

We are also adding two additional faculty members: Regan Giesinger from the University of Toronto and Heidi Harmon from Indiana University. Dr. Giesinger will be assisting Dr. McNamara in running the Neonatal Hemodynamics Center. Dr. Harmon will be taking over our follow-up program. We are excited to add both these talented faculty members to our group and look forward to their clinical and research contributions.

This year, we will say goodbye to our two senior fellows: Stacy Kern and Baiba Steinbrekera. Dr. Kern is taking a private practice job in Fargo, ND and Dr. Steinbrekera will be taking a position at the University of South Dakota.

We will be adding three new fellows in July: Trassanee Chatmethakul, Brian Juber, and Matthew Rysavy.

Our upcoming conference on Care of the Perivable Infant will be held on the University of Iowa campus on September 26-28. There is no registration fee for this conference and more information can be found at www.iowaperivable.com. We hope you can join us!

KANSAS

Sunflower Neonatology Associates, Overland Park

Save the date for the 8th annual Neonatal Symposium Controversies in Care in Kansas City on November 10, 2018. Faculty include Jeff Reese, Steve Abman, Barbara Schmidt, Haresh Kirpalani, Martin Keszler, and NNP Robin Bissinger. #KCNEO2018. For more information see hcamidwest.com/nicu-symposium.

Dena Hubbard will join the Kansas AAP (KAAP) Board of Directors July 1. She will also be the chair of the KAAP Public Policy (Legislative) Committee. She received a travel grant from KAAP to attend the 2018 AAP Legislative Conference, participated in the subspecialty track, and has joined the SoNPM Advocacy Committee.

Robert Holcomb and Tom Lancaster led the procedure lab at the 16th annual Airborne Neonatal and Pediatric Transport Conference in Austin in May. They will also be directing the
procedure lab course at AAP NCE Section on Transport Medicine meeting in November.

Robert Holcomb along with Thomas Lancaster led 300 members of the Section on Transport Medicine to win the prestigious Outstanding Service in Communication and Collaboration Award at this year’s AAP Annual Leadership Forum. They were awarded for the duo’s very popular procedure lab that took place at the 2016 Course on Neonatal and Pediatric Critical Care Transport Medicine. Dr. Holcomb is the 2018 AAP NCE Transport Section Conference Chair and will assume role of Chair for the Section on Transport Medicine in November.

MINNESOTA

Children’s Minnesota, St. Paul

We are pleased to announce the additions of Erin Plummer and Libby Zorn to Associates in Newborn Medicine PA (St Paul, MN) starting in the fall of 2018.

St. Mary’s Children’s Hospital, Essential Health, Duluth

Annie Simones is joining our group in September following the completion of her neonatal-perinatal fellowship at the University of Minnesota. We are looking forward to welcoming her to our team and to Duluth!

We are rolling out a NICU Telemedicine Program to support our rural colleagues as they care for and stabilize neonates prior to the NICU team arrival. We anticipate providing non-urgent consults as well. Roll out will start with our rural colleagues in MN and expand from there to NW Wisconsin and a portion of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital/University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Sara Ramel was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

Cheryl Gale received a NIH R21 award to study “Fungal-Bacterial Interactions in the Developing Infant Gut.”

Raghu Rao received a NIH R01 award for his study on early diagnosis and treatment of brain dysfunction due to iron deficiency in infancy.

Kari Roberts was an invited speaker for the International Workshop on Less Invasive Surfactant Administration in Lubeck, Germany May 30-31.

We wish our three graduating fellows well! Annie Simones will be joining the neonatology group at Essentia Health Duluth, MN and Erin Plummer and Libby Zorn will be joining Associates in Newborn Medicine practicing at Children’s Minnesota St. Paul.

We welcome our new fellows Daniela Villacis from Texas Tech, El Paso and Justin Hammer from the University of Iowa.

MISSOURI

Children’s Mercy Hospital/University of Missouri, Kansas City

After serving as the Division Director of Neonatology for 25 years, Howard Kilbride will be stepping down effective July 1, 2018. Dr. Kilbride leaves a legacy of service to the Division, to Children’s Mercy Hospital, to the SoNP, and to the AAP. Dr. Kilbride will not be retiring from practice and will continue to serve as Associate Chair in the Department of Pediatrics, the Neonatal Director of the Fetal Health Center, and Medical Director of the NICU at the University of Kansas. Steve Olsen, who has been serving as the Associate Division Director has been named the Interim Division Director.

Dena Hubbard will join the faculty at Children’s Mercy Hospital in July 2018. Dr. Hubbard completed her fellowship at Children’s Mercy and has been with Sunflower Neonatology since. Dr. Hubbard will continue to be active with MidCaN, furthering her interests on issues of resiliency and advocacy.

The following two faculty members were promoted to Associate Professors of Pediatrics: Ayman Khmour and Danielle Reed.

Vankatesh Sampath was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics.

The University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Medicine has announced that Brian Carter will serve as the next William T. and Marjorie Sirridge Professor in Medical Humanities. Dr. Carter joined the School of Medicine and Children’s Mercy Hospital in 2012 as a Professor of Pediatrics and Bioethics. He serves as Co-Director of the Children’s Mercy Bioethics Center’s Pediatric Bioethics Certificate Course and practices at Children’s Mercy Hospital as a neonatologist. An internationally-recognized expert in medical bioethics and neonatal palliative care, Dr. Carter is the recipient of numerous NIH grants. He has published extensively in the areas of neonatology, neonatal intensive care, palliative care, and bioethics and is the author of three textbooks on neonatal intensive and palliative care.

The NPM fellowship had 3 graduating fellows in June 2018. Lovya George will remain with CMH and work clinically in Kansas, at both University of Kansas NICU and Via Christi Hospital NICU in Wichita. She will continue her basic science research in the lab of Vankatesh Sampath on genetic etiologies of NEC. Samuel Lee will remain in Kansas City and work clinically at St. Luke’s Hospital. Nick Townley will return to Omaha and will be at Creighton Medical School and Omaha Children’s Hospital.

Eugenia Pallotto continues to serve as a Children’s Hospitals Neonatal Database Board Member and the Secretary-Treasurer. She will serve as Co-Chair of the 2018 CHNC Annual Symposium to be held the week of October 22, 2018 in Columbus, OH. www.thechnc.org.

Eugenia Pallotto leads the CMH efforts in the STEPPS collaborative through CHNC. This quality improvement work is focused on improving perioperative handoff and patient physiologic parameters including temperature, blood gas parameters and glucose levels.

St. Louis Children’s Hospital/Washington University, St. Louis

The move into the expanded St. Louis Children’s Hospital’s 120 bed NICU went smoothly in February and we also transitioned to EPIC as our electronic health record on June 2nd.

The Division will welcome five new faculty members this summer: Hayley Friedman from Tufts, Gillian Pet from Seattle Children’s Hospital and Johns Hopkins, Nicole Deputa from Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital, and Julie Nogee and Kelleigh Briden both from our fellowship program.

On April 1st, the Division assumed responsibility for clinical coverage and medical direction at Belleville Memorial East and Belleville Memorial Hospital that complement similar coverage and medical direction at Missouri Baptist Medical Center and Progress West Hospital.

The Division’s research activities were well represented at the recent Pediatric Academic Societies’ meeting in Toronto: Amit Mathur, Zachary Vesoulis, Akshay Vachharajani, Misty Good, Barbara Warner, F. Sessions Cole, and nine fellows presented work or presided at sessions or both.

Julie Nogee, a 3rd year fellow, was recognized with the David G. Nathan Award in Basic Research at the PAS meeting in Toronto.

June Hu, a 2nd year fellow, received the Stanley Phillips Award for the Best Poster at the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research.

In December, Misty Good, was named to the Scientific Advisory Council of the Necrotizing Enterocolitis Society and is leading a 25 medical center consortium in the development of a NEC biorepository.

Zachary Vesoulis recently received a grant from the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation to support investigation of the mechanisms of white matter injury in preterm infants and was recognized in December as the featured Early Career Investigator in Pediatric Research.

St. Louis University/Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital

Amber Ratliff will be leaving the faculty on June 30th. She is moving to University of Columbia, Missouri.

Christopher Lust and Christopher Brownsworth will join us at the Assistant Professor level starting July 1. Dr. Lust completed his fellowship at Children’s Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis. Christopher Brownsworth completed his fellowship here at Saint Louis University.
NEBRASKA
Children’s Hospital and Medical Center/University of Nebraska, Omaha
Children’s Hospital and Medical Center and University of Nebraska Medical Center are participating in a multicenter trial evaluating the role of whole genome sequencing in the medical care of babies with complex medical/surgical presentation. Luca Brunelli is the PI for the Omaha site.

University of Nebraska Medical Center, in conjunction with Children’s Hospital and Medical Center, has been approved to start a neonatal-perinatal medicine fellowship under the direction of Ann Anderson Berry and Courtney McLean. https://www.unmc.edu/pediatrics/divisions/neonatology/fellowship/index.html

Nick Townley is joining the Division of Neonatology at Creighton School of Medicine. He did a pediatric residency and a neonatology fellowship at Mercy Children’s in Kansas City.

Nathan Gollehon has assumed the role of Undergraduate Medical Education Director for Pediatrics at University of Nebraska Medical Center.

NORTH DAKOTA
Sanford Children’s NICU, Sanford Health, Fargo
We have two newly graduated neonatologists joining Sanford Children’s Hospital in Fargo this July, Stacy Kern from University of Iowa and Brianna MacQueen from University of Utah.

SOUTH DAKOTA
Sanford Children’s Hospital/University of South Dakota, Sioux City
Jacquelyn Grew, from the University of Vermont, and Baiba Steinbrekera, from the University of Iowa, will be joining us at Sanford Children’s Hospital in summer 2018.

WISCONSIN
Marshfield Clinic Children’s Hospital
Marshfield Clinic has completed the purchase of St. Joseph’s Hospital. We are now Marshfield Clinic Health System and Marshfield Clinic Medical Center and Marshfield Clinic Children’s Hospital.

We have had some change of personnel. The new NICU director is Audra Winder. Amy Blake has now been here for almost two years. We are excited to welcome Nageshwar Chauhan, who will be finishing his fellowship at Michigan State University and joining us in July.

UnityPoint Meriter and American Family Children’s Hospital/University of Wisconsin, Madison
Adam Bauer will be graduating from our fellowship program and joining us as a neonatology faculty member.

Our level IV NICU at American Family Children’s Hospital has expanded from a 14-bed to a 26-bed unit.

ARKANSAS
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences/Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Little Rock
UAMS/ACH welcomes three new attendings to the Section of Neonatology: David Matlock, who did his fellowship training here at UAMS/ACH; Ankita Shukla, who did her fellowship training at MetroHealth/Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, OH; and Megha Sharma, who trained at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

We welcome our two new fellows: Alyssa Walden, who completed her residency here at UAMS and Victoria Winningham, who comes to us from Greenville Health Systems in Greenville, SC.

Congratulations to Douglas Seglem and Jennifer Andrews, who were promoted to Associate Professors of Pediatrics.

Congratulations to Francesca Miquel Verge, who has been named Vice-Chief of Clinical Affairs in Neonatology.

A special congratulations to David Matlock, who received one of the two Clinical Research Awards from the Junior Section of the Society for Pediatric Research for his abstract, “Work of Breathing in Premature Newborns during Non-invasive Ventilation,” presented at the PAS meeting in Toronto.

We wish the best to our graduating fellows! Bianca Davenport will be practicing at Clear Lake Regional Medical Center in Webster, TX. David Matlock is joining us at UAMS/ACH.

MISSISSIPPI
Children’s of Mississippi/University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson
Renate Savich received the Southern Society for Pediatric Research Abbott Pediatric Educator Award in February at the annual SSPR meeting. She was also visiting professor at Tulane University giving the Bertha T. Martinez Memorial Lecture and spoke on, “Addressing Neonatal and NICU Health Disparities in the South: Low Tech but High Yield.”

Renate Savich organized an Invited Science Program at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Toronto on “Addressing the Impact of Health Disparities on Neonatal Outcomes.” Other speakers on the program were Elena Fuentes-Afflick, Heather Burris and Scott Lorch.

Renate Savich taught a Helping Babies Breathe Master Trainer Course in May at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, teaching eight other neonatologists this life-saving program to be used for Global Health. She was also an invited speaker at the 2018 NeoPREP conference and at 2nd Arab Neonatal Review Course in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Abhay Bhatt was named as the Medical Liaison to the NICU at Memorial General Hospital in Gulfport, where the University of Mississippi Medical Center now manages the NICU.

Kara Driver was appointed as the Neonatology Lead – Clinical Consultant by the CDC in her role with the Mississippi State Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

Simon Karam and Billy Mink were promoted to Associate Professor at UMMC.

Sajani Tippins was promoted to Professor at UMMC.

Sajani Tippins helped organize the recent Southern Group on Educational Affairs meeting at UMMC’s new School of Medicine building, as part of her role at UMMC as Assistant Dean for Curriculum.

Congratulations to our graduating fellows: Marcelo Rains, Noelle Morey and Sumana Ramarao. Dr. Ramarao will be staying at UMMC as an Assistant Professor in Neonatology. Dr. Rains will be moving to Nashville, TN and Dr. Morey will be moving to Champaign, IL.

Renate Savich is a member of the Organizing Committee for the newly established Women in Neonatology, a new group that is part of the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

Renate Savich is the site PI of a NIH grant, “Clinical Sequencing Across Communities in the Deep South: South-Seq.” Other sites are HudsonAlpha (Huntsville, AL) for the whole genome sequencing, and University of Alabama Birmingham and Baton Rouge for patient recruitment.

OKLAHOMA
Children’s Hospital at OU Medical Center at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City
Fellows Michael Melek (mentored by Faizah Bhatti) and Tavleen Sandhu (mentored by Birju Shah) have each been awarded the 2018 Children’s Hospital Foundation Fellowship Research Award.

Graduating fellows Aarthi Gunasekaran and Lauren White will both join the University of Oklahoma faculty as Assistant Professors in Pediatrics.

Marilyn Escobedo and Clara Song both serve on the Steering Committee of the newly formed Women in Neonatology (WIN) of the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine of the AAP. In April, the WIN Steering Committee organized the 2018 inaugural WIN meeting, which immediately followed the Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies in Scottsdale, AZ. WIN plans to meet next at the 2018 NCE in Orlando, FL.

Marilyn Escobedo has been appointed as Chairman of the writing group for the ILCOR Neonatal Task Force. She also led a workshop on career development at the SSPR in New Orleans, was a panel member for a NRP Live Webinar, and co-chaired a symposium on resuscitation science with Satyan Lakshmirsinha at the PAS.
Marilyn Escobedo was officially awarded the rank of Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, University of Oklahoma.

Clara Song has joined the 2020 NeoPrep Planning Committee.

Clara Song has joined the Neonatology Today editorial team as the Social Media and Digital Communications Editor.

Edgardo Szyld has been accepted as a member of the American Pediatric Society.

Faizah Bhatti was elected to and participated in SSPR Council. Dr. Bhatti coordinates the SSPR Facebook and Twitter presence.

Abhishek Makkar was approved to become a SSPR member.

Kimberly D. Ernst, Raja Nandyal and Edgardo Szyld were all promoted to the level of Professor of Pediatrics.

Registration is open for the 2nd Annual Neonatal Resuscitation Symposium at OU. This is a one-day meeting on October 12, 2018. Conference Committee includes Marilyn Escobedo, Birju Shah, Clara Song, and Edgardo Szyld.


TENNESSEE

Baylor/Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston

Graduating fellows from 2016 and 2017

Kristine Reyes, Karen Patricia, Tiffany Stafford, John Hoover, Matt Maruna, Steven Ford, Sarah Coors, Shweta Parmekar, Alana Thomas and Cathy Gannon made up the winning team at the Neonatology Specialty Review “Battle of the Boards.” The competition was held on Wednesday, February 21st, during the Specialty Review in Neonatology conference at the Hyatt Regency Orlando in Orlando, FL. The team placed 1st out of about 40 teams, and two fellows made the individual top 10 (out of about 400).

Erynn Bergner, Clinical Post-Doctoral Fellow at Baylor College of Medicine, was the 2018 recipient of the Arnold J. Rudolph Fellows Award. This award honors 3rd-year fellows in our Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program for outstanding teaching, patient care, scientific inquiry, and professional integrity. She was also presented the Southern SPR (SSPR) Young Investigator Award (Clinical Research) at the SSPR Awards Presentations.

George Mandy was awarded as the Science Degree at the University of Colorado, Aurora.

Chiamaka Aneji was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

Implications for Adult and Neonatal Lung Injury.” She also recently received an R03 award from the NHLBI to support her research in this same area.

Gregory Valentine won the Award for Basic Research Poster Presentation Post-Doctoral Fellow in a Clinical Fellowship at the Baylor Department of Pediatrics Fellows Day.

Lakshmi Katakam has been promoted to Associate Professor (non-tenured) in the Department of Pediatrics.

Binoy Shivanna was appointed as a member of the American Thoracic Society’s Pediatric Program Committee.

Michael E. Speer was presented the Arnold J. Rudolph MD Lifetime Excellence in Teaching Award by the Baylor Pediatric Department.

Gautham Suresh gave the keynote address, “Quality improvement – Thinking Outside the Toolbox,” at the Neonatal Quality at Hot Topics in Neonatology in Washington, DC in December and three presentations at the 13th Hot Topics in Neonatal Medicine, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in February. In addition, he participated in four workshop presentations at the recent PAS meeting in Toronto.

Ashley Lucks a graduating 3rd-year neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow at Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children’s Hospital has accepted a position at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC within the Division of Newborn Medicine and Fetal Medicine Institute.

Erynn Bergner is also graduating and will join the faculty at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City.

The following graduating fellows will be entering the private practice of Neonatology: Jenna Humphrey (Charlotte, NC), Ashley Bruns (Houston, TX) and Tiffany Molina (Houston, TX).

Rebecca Burke has finished the neonatal-perinatal medicine portion of her combined fellowship with genetics, and this year, will finish her last year of training as a genetics fellow.

University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston

Rafael Fonseca and Sunil Jain were awarded John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine Awards for Excellence in Clinical Teaching.

Michael H. Malloy received an Ashbel Smith Award for Distinguished Alumni of UTMB.

We recently got our designation from the Texas Department of State Health Services designating University of Texas Medical Branch as a Level IV Neonatal Facility (Advanced Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). This state designation is valid for a three-year period.

Uthealth/McGovern Medical School, Houston

Chiamaka Aneji was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

District VIII:

Lily Lou

The Children’s Hospital at Providence, Anchorage

Lily Lou will step into the role of SoNPM Chair-Elect after the NCE in November 2018. She will follow Mark Hudak, as he succeeds John Zupancic as Section Chair.

Alaska Neonatology Associates, Anchorage

Sarah Volz will be relocating from Anchorage, AK to Los Angeles, CA to join the CHLA team in the fall.

The 43rd annual District VIII Conference will be held in Anchorage, AK on June 27-30th, 2019 at the Hotel Captain Cook. Themes will include technology, ethics, genetics and non-neonatologists who care for newborns.

COLORADO

University of Colorado, Aurora

Stephanie Bourque joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Section of Neonatology. Additionally, she recently completed a Masters of Science in Clinical Science degree at the University of Colorado and was awarded the 2018 Gerald B. Merenstein Award.

James Barry will serve as the next District VIII representative to the SoNPM Executive Committee, succeeding Lily Lou (Anchorage, AK).

OREGON

Providence St. Joseph Health, Portland

Joe Kaempf is now the Medical Director for CQI and Clinical Research for the Providence Health System Women & Children’s Services. Joe will be coordinating, improvising, and developing various CQI, EBM, and clinical research projects for Providence obstetricians, pediatric specialists, and newborn medicine providers in Oregon.

UTAH

University of Utah, Salt Lake City

Jerry King was inducted into the District VIII Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Founders on June 23, 2018. He joins Joseph Butterfield, Larry Jung, Joe Daily, Doug MacMillan, Gerry Merenstein, Carl Bodenstein, and Dennis Mayock in this honor.

District IX:

Andrew O. Hopper

California Association of Neonatologists (CAN)

Doug Carbine (US Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA) took over as CAN President at the Annual CAN Meeting in March 2018 and Fayez Bany-Mohammed was elected Vice President/President-Elect of CAN.

The 24th Annual CAN/District IX Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Conference, Cool Topics in Neonatology and the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC)
Pre-Conference was held March 3-5, 2018 at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort, San Diego, CA. Nearly 300 participants attended from California and the Western United States. A reception was held on March 4th to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of CPQCC.

The 2018 David Wirtschafter Award for Quality Improvement was given to Jochen Profit from Stanford University.

California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC)

CPQCC launched two new quality improvement offerings in the spring of 2018. “Grow, Babies, Grow!” is an IHI-style QI collaborative designed to improve long-term health outcomes by optimizing growth and nutrition in the NICU. Twenty-three NICUs across California have registered to participate. An expert panel of a nutritionist, a parent representative, a neonatologist, a CNS/NNP, a research expert, a lactation consultant, a QI specialist, a data use and interpretation specialist, and a context/culture expert met on June 14th to develop a change package and metrics for the collaborative group. CPQCC will also be releasing a revised QI toolkit featuring best practices for nutritional support of VLBW infants in mid to late June.

CPQCC’s second QI project, “Simulating Success,” focuses on reducing neonatal mortality and morbidity through on-site, simulation-based resuscitation training. Fifteen sites across California and Oregon will participate. The first group of four sites have begun an online simulation training course and will attend a two day in-person course at the Center for Advanced Pediatric & Perinatal Education (CAPE) at Stanford in mid-June.

CPQCC continues to advance research on neonatal quality improvement, especially in the area of disparities in care. In April, a qualitative study of narrative accounts of disparate care in the NICU conducted by researchers at CPQCC and Stanford University was published. The study found that disparate treatment is almost always targeted at families and not the infants themselves, suggesting the need for more equitable family-centered care. CPQCC researchers are currently involved in developing effective measures of family-centered NICU care.

Follow CPQCC news and updates on our website (www.cpqcc.org) or on Twitter (@CPQCC) or Facebook (facebook.com/cpqcc).

CAN Quality Improvement and Research Committee

The Committee has centered on studying unit-wide practice changes using the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC) database. The first project will focus on nutrition and will study the impact of the liquid hydrolyzed bovine-based human milk fortifier use in extremely preterm infants in California NICUs. The aim of this project will be to measure growth and development, major morbidities and mortalities before and after introduction of this fortifier. Several regional and community tertiary care NICUs in California will participate in this study. Each center will gather their own multidisciplinary team of physicians, nursing staff, and nutritionists to implement this project.

The VLBW infant tracking project by Kurlen Payton, in collaboration with the technology company Mosio, is underway. This relies on text messaging software for collecting data on post-discharge follow-up and assessment of health care utilization needs. He is collecting information regarding the post-discharge follow up of infants with patent ductus arteriosus. Fifteen centers are planning to participate.

The Gravens Conference

The 31st Annual Gravens Conference on the Physical and Developmental Environment of the High Risk Infant, in collaboration with the March of Dimes

March 6-9, 2019

Sheraton Sand Key Resort ☛ Clearwater Beach, Florida

For information email brose@health.usf.edu

2019 Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies

March 29-31, 2019

Paradise Valley DoubleTree Hotel

Scottsdale, Arizona

For more information or to request a brochure, access www.pedialink.org/cmefinder or call 866/843-2271.
A survey on the use of transcutaneous bilirubins in the NICU was performed by Dilip Bhatt with the results presented at the CAN CPQCC Pre-Conference March 2018.

Jae Kim is organizing a study looking at NICUs that transitioned from powdered human milk fortifier to liquid fortifier and comparing various outcomes in the CPQCC database associated with this transition.

Apple Valley/Victor Valley Hospital

Dadomada Rajasekhar will be installed as President of San Bernardino County Medical Society on June 20th, 2018. He is a pediatrician in solo practice from Apple Valley, CA and also provides neonatal care at the Victor Valley Hospital, Victorville, CA. He completed fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine at University of Massachusetts Medical Center and started a solo pediatric practice in California in 1996. Dr. Rajasekhar served on the Board of the AAP California Chapter 2 for many years as area representative from the High Desert. He also served as a member of AAP California (District IX) State Government Affairs Committee for more than 10 years. He represented AAP District IX as a delegate to California Medical Association (CMA) House of Delegates for 10 years until 2016. In May 2018, he was elected to serve as the Vice-President/President-Elect of AAP California Chapter 2. He is a member of the Board of Trustees at CMA and is the Treasurer for CALPAC (CMA Political Action Committee).

Benioff Children’s Hospital/University of California San Francisco

The UCSF Division of Neonatology and the Intensive Care Nursery (ICN) are thrilled to announce the creation of the ROOTS (Realizing Optimal Outcomes for our Tiniest Patients) Program, and its clinical unit, The Grove small-baby unit within the ICN. The Grove will provide a nurturing environment to optimize the care of premature infants born at < 28 weeks gestational age or < 1,000 grams birthweight.

Elizabeth (Liz) Rogers will serve as Director of ROOTS. This program has the goal of continuously improving clinical care, supporting research, and tracking outcomes for this high-risk population from birth through discharge and into early childhood. Opening day for The Grove was celebrated June 4.

Melissa Liebowitz and Adam DeTora have joined the faculty group at UCSF in the Division of Neonatology.

Betty Vohr was invited to be the 2018 UCSF William H. Tooley Guest Professor. She spent three days meeting with fellows and faculty, attending rounds and providing lectures, culminating in the 2018 William H. Tooley Memorial Lecture and Neonatology Research Symposium on Thursday, June 7th. Other invited lecturers included Susan Hintz (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians) and Jonathan Litt (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians).

Jeffrey Fineman was awarded the 2018 SPR Maureen Andrew Mentor Award at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada. Dr. Fineman is Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics, Director of Critical Care Medicine, Director of the Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension Service, Director of the Pediatric Translational Research Core Facility, and Investigator of the Cardiovascular and Regenerative Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, Benioff Children’s Hospital. He has served as mentor and collaborator to fellows and faculty within the Division of Neonatology for many years.

February 2018 marked the 10-Year Anniversary of the UCSF Neurointensive Care Nursery, the first unit of its kind dedicated to providing “brain-focused care” to neonates at risk for brain injury of any cause. Formal celebrations are scheduled to occur on November 9th, 2018.

Maria Hetherton was chosen to be the dietician on the CPQCC “Grow, Babies, Grow!” Collaborative. An expert panel will be hosted prior to launch of the Collaborative on June 14th at the UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Intensive Care Nursery. Maria is Senior Supervisor, Neonatal/Pediatric Dietitian at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals.

Save the Date for the 2nd Annual Pacific Coast Fetal Cardiology 2018 Conference, an interactive and case-based educational symposium, taking place August 3-4, 2018 in San Francisco. The primary goal of the symposium is to improve the cardiac screening and diagnostic capabilities of the obstetric and fetal cardiac programs in the region. The course will also highlight recent advances in fetal diagnosis and treatment and innovative therapeutic strategies for congenital heart disease. Location is Park Central Hotel San Francisco. Reservations (888)627-8561 by July 12, 2018. Course Chairs are Anita Moon-Grady, Wyman W. Lai, and Shabnam Poyvandi. Email your request to registration@ocmc.ucsf.edu, phone (415)476-5808.

CHOC Children’s Pediatric Subspecialty Faculty, Orange

We are pleased to welcome two new neonatologists for 2018: Sally Haas (pediatric residency at CHOC Children’s, fellowship at UC San Diego) and Stella Hwang (residency at Harbor UCLA, fellowship at Harbor UCLA/CHOC Children’s). We are also pleased to welcome a new neonatal hospitalist. Diana Chavez LaFontaine completed her pediatric residency at University of California, Irvine/CHOC Children’s Hospital.

The CHOC Children’s Neonatal Faculty presented a number of abstracts at the 24th CAN Cool Topics in Neonatology Meeting in March 2018. The new CHOC NICU has been expanded to accommodate a total of 104 beds. The concept behind the single-room design is focused on family-centered care. We have been experiencing positive patient satisfaction feedback and an increase in transfers to CHOC Children’s from our neonatal network which covers a total of 9 other units.


Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

The Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Fetal and Neonatal Institute (FNI), along with the Division of Neonatology and the Fetal-Maternal Center (FMC), continues to offer an integrated team that provides advanced care for more than 2000 critically ill newborns and infants and mothers-to-be each year. This multi-institutional collaboration led by CHLA brings the hospital together with the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, Providence Tarzana Medical Center, Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, and Providence St. John’s Health Center, including the expertise of more than 25 pediatric medical, surgical and radiology divisions.

Philippe Friedlich and David Miller co-direct the FNI at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. CHLA is among the nation’s top-ranked hospitals for fetal and neonatology care, with one of the most innovative models in the country for the care and treatment of the most complex maternal-fetal and neonatal conditions.

The FMC provides comprehensive fetal evaluation, fetal imaging and minimally invasive fetal surgery in partnership with obstetricians, maternal-fetal medicine and pediatric specialists, and clinical care managers. Outcomes from our interventions are among the best in the nation.

The 58-bed Level IV Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation NICU cares for the most complex and critically ill neonates and infants requiring medical and surgical care, including ECMO. Following discharge, our High-Risk Infant Follow-Up programs at CHLA and community sites provide ongoing developmental, behavioral and growth assessment and follow-up care.

Rachel Chapman was appointed as the Associate Division Chief of Neonatology at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. She is in charge of overseeing operations, program development and organizing neonatal-perinatal clinical education programs.

Following Philippe Friedlich’s endowment of the Teresa and Byron Pollitt Family Chair in Fetal and Neonatal Medicine, Cynthia Gong has joined the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Fetal and Neonatal Institute and Division of Neonatology. Dr. Gong will enhance the opportunity for collaboration in the areas of neonatal outcome research, healthcare economics and policies by bringing teams from the Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics and the USC Keck School of Medicine. Under the leadership of Dr. Friedlich,
Dr. Gong will help to develop the newly created Laboratory in Fetal & Neonatal Healthcare Research.

Leah Yieh was recruited as a physician-scientist. Dr. Yieh received her MD and MPH from the University of Texas School of Medicine in 2012. She completed her internship and residency in pediatrics and her fellowship training in neonatal-perinatal medicine at the Oregon Health and Science University, Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland in 2015 and 2018 respectively. As an academic neonatologist, Dr. Yieh’s research interests will focus on neonatal outcomes, medical decision-making, and healthcare economics in the field of Neonatal and Perinatal Medicine. She will join our Laboratory in Fetal & Neonatal Healthcare Research.

Puneet Arora will join the Division. Dr. Arora completed his fellowship training at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and obtained his master’s degree in Clinical and Translational Science from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Arora will serve as a clinical-educator. He will pursue his current interests in medical quality and health outcomes.

We welcome the newest members of our neonatal hospitalist team: Arlene Espiritu will join from the NICU at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, Honolulu, HI. Kameelah Gateau will join after completing her Chief Resident year at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Kevin Patel just completed his pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Kevvon M. Bekarev is from Children’s Hospital at Montefiore. Colin Parker just completed his pediatric residency at UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital.

Several of our faculty members gained academic promotion to Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Clinical Educator) at the USC Keck School of Medicine: Arlene Garingo, Steven Chin, Linda Tesoriero, Ting-Yi Lin and Theodora (Loïa) Stavroudis.

Steven Chin, CHLA Regional Director of Neonatology, was awarded the William Ginsburg Integrity Award at the PAC/LAC Annual Conference in May.

The Division of Neonatology had a strong presence at PAS meeting in Toronto by presenting 26 abstracts including platform presentations by Jessica Wniosk and Ashley Song. Shahab Noori led a workshop on assessment of patent ductus arteriosus and cardiac function using a hands-on approach with novel neonatal echocardiography simulators. Dr. Noori was also co-leader of a workshop on real-life use of four monitoring technologies: Near-infrared spectroscopy, amplitude-integrated EEG, heart rate characteristics and point-of-care ultrasound.

East Bay Newborn Specialists

Three new neonatologists will be joining East Bay Newborn Specialists, which is based at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley, and John Muir Medical Center Walnut Creek. Spencer Magargal will be joining in July 2018. Spencer is completing his neonatology fellowship at UC San Diego. His research interest has been in the use of high resolution physiologic monitoring in care of extremely premature neonates. Sarah Beaudoin will be joining in August 2018. Sarah is completing her neonatology fellowship at Penn State University, Hershey, PA. During fellowship, her research interest has been in the use of multiphoton imaging to study the role of GM-CSF in the prevention of and recovery from bronchopulmonary dysplasia in a murine model. Nandita Mandhani will be joining in October 2018. She is completing her neonatology fellowship at Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Her research focus during fellowship has been to study the effect of maternal immune activation on the offspring’s brain in a murine model. Leslie Lusk was named the Medical Director of Fetal Medicine for UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland.

Lou Pollack, who worked previously in the Pacific Northwest, joined East Bay Newborn Specialists in 2017. He works in the NICU at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley. Lou also has been doing volunteer international medicine work in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia since 2011.

Amarjit Sandhu, a longtime member of the neonatology group based in the East Bay, plans to retire at the end of 2018. Dr. Sandhu was previously the Medical Director of the NICU at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley.

Nick Mickas, a longtime member of East Bay Newborn Specialists and Medical Director of the NICU at John Muir Medical Center Walnut Creek, has been named John Muir Health’s 1st Medical Director of Clinical Operations. As Medical Director of Clinical Operations, Dr. Mickas will promote patient safety; seek to enhance the provision of efficient, effective, evidence-based and patient-centric care; and will focus on reducing clinical variation. Good Samaritan Hospital, San Jose After 20+ years of service with our group, Cindy Chen will be retiring at the end of June 2018.

In July of this year, Richard Powers will step down from his position of Practice Director to devote more time to his position as Chief of Staff while Sridevi Venigalla will become the new Medical Director of the NICU. Pui Lai, who completed her fellowship at Medical College of Wisconsin in 2017, joined our group in August 2017 and Lalitha Venugopalan joined our group in December 2017. Tabitha Solomon will join our group in July 2018.

Meera Sankar left in June 2017 to take a position at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford University Division of Neonatology.

Harbor University of California Los Angeles, Torrance Welcome to Katherine Kuniyoshi, Harbor UCLA’s newest neonatal faculty member. Kathy comes to Harbor after a 7-year career at Miller Children’s Hospital, Long Beach, CA. Her interests include neonatal nutrition, cholestasis and necrotizing enterocolitis.

Congratulations to our graduating fellows! Cindy Lee and Elaine Chu will join Pediatric at their Las Vegas, NV and Long Beach, CA sites, respectively. Stella Hwang will practice at CHOC Children’s Hospital and Muneesh Mehra will join the Harbor UCLA Division of Hospitalist Medicine.

In July, we welcome our newest neonatal fellows: Chie Kurihara, Monika Martin, Nina Nosavan and Robin Williams.

Six of our neonatal fellows had multiple WSPR and PAS/SPR poster and oral presentations on the subject of neonatal lung development.

Lynee Smith’s work on Neonatal Neurobehavior and Outcomes in Very Preterm Infants (NOVI) was presented at PAS.

Virender Rehan has been awarded a High Potential Pilot Grant from The Tobacco Related-Disease Research Program entitled, “Fetal Nicotine Exposure Alters Bone Marrow Stem Cell Function Permanently.” In collaboration with Advent Therapeutics, Dr. Rehan has also received a Small Business Innovation Research grant from the NIH for, “Aerosolized Vitamin A Impact on Lung Maturation and Hyperoxic Neonatal Lung Injury.” He also served on the Study Section Reviews for the NICHD Special Emphasis Panels, Structural Birth Defects Program and Translational Research in Pediatric and Obstetric Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Soina Dargan recently returned from a trip to Uganda, where she and her colleagues trained 44 midwives in the Helping Babies Survive Program.

Accolades to our fellows: Cindy Lee received the Abbott Nutrition Subspecialty Award for her work in fetal tobacco exposure and lung development. Aamir Ansari and Himanshu Singh received the 2018 Western American Federation for Medical Research Scholar Award which supports independent investigators with outstanding research productivity. Loma Linda University Medical Center

The Division of Neonatology at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital provided a grant to Loma Linda Publishing Company (LLPC, a not-for-profit Delaware 501(c)3 corporation) so that LLPC could finance the acquisition of Neonatology Today. The journal is now peer reviewed. Mitchell Goldstein serves as Editor-in-Chief. For more information on submitting manuscripts and signing up for a free subscription, please go to http://www.neonatologytoday.net.

Munaf Kadri was Visiting Professor at Zhejiang University Children’s Hospital, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China in May 2018. He was accompanied by Nicole Kraus, 2nd year fellow. Drs. Kadri and Kraus served as consultants, attended daily rounds in the NICU and gave multiple lectures to the medical staff.

New faculty include Larry Ngo (completed his fellowship at Loma Linda University School of
Medicine), Eunkt Ha, (completed his fellowship at Loma Linda University School of Medicine) and Gail Levine (coming from CHOC).

Los Angeles County University of Southern California (LAC-USC)

Rowena Cayabyab was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics in May 2018.

Manoj Biniwale was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

Smeeta Sardesai was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics in June 2018.

Rowena Cayabyab was inducted to the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, Rowena Cayabyab was inducted to the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, Rowena Cayabyab was inducted to the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health.

Rangasamy Ramanathan received a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his services to Newborn Health from National Neonatology Forum in India, one of the largest organizations of physicians, during the 37th Annual Convention of National Neonatology Forum on December 8, 2017 in Gurugram, Haryana, India. He also received Role of Honour for Lifetime Contribution to Neonatology from Manipal Advanced Children's Centre, Department of Neonatology, Manipal Hospitals, Manipal University, Bengaluru, India.

Smeeta Sardesai received the David N. Shaw Award from the Hospital of the Good Samaritan for her compassionate care in December 2017 and the Best Teacher Award from the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program at LAC+USC Medical Center in June 2018.

Over the past year, Rangasamy Ramanathan was invited to give lectures in Guatemala, Germany, Greece, Belarus, Ukraine, Dubai, India, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Netherlands, Canada and Romania. At these international conferences, Dr. Ramanathan conducted workshops on noninvasive ventilation and LISA techniques, lectured on various topics in neonatology, and was often a keynote speaker.

Smeeta Sardesai was invited speaker in Poland, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh during this academic year.

Rowena Cayabyab was an invited speaker at the 24th Annual Cool Topics in Neonatology Conference in Coronado, CA and in Philippines.

Manoj Biniwale ran a workshop on noninvasive ventilation during the 2018 Pediatric Academic Society meetings in Toronto, Canada. He was also an invited speaker in India.

Courtney Nicholas participated in a local clinic with an organization called Trek Relief in Salyan, Nepal in March 2018 and taught a Helping Babies Breathe course in Cuenca, Ecuador in May 2018.

Four fellows are graduating from our program in 2018, including Pooja Bhatt. Hemananda Muniraman is joining a neonatology group at Phoenix Children’s Hospital and St Joseph’s Hospital in Phoenix. Kathryn Fletcher is joining a Neonatology practice in Chicago. Rebecca E. Meyer is joining Long Beach Memorial Medical Center after her graduation.

Hemananda Muniraman received a travel award from PAS to present his scholarly work at the 2018 PAS meetings in Toronto, Canada.

The following physicians are joining LAC+USC/USC Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program beginning in July 2018:

- Millie Change from CHLA; Shannon Liu from CHLA; Thea Tagliaferro from Jackson Memorial Children's Hospital, University of Miami; Carolina Zenobi from Elmhurst, NY; Avideh Rashed from SUNY, Syracuse, NY; and Jaclyn Kappico from UCLA.

NorthBay Neonatology Associates, Fairfield

The NorthBay NICU won the prestigious Press-Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award for 2017. This award honors NICUs that have reached the 95th percentile for patient experience, engagement or clinical quality performance. The Guardian of Excellence Awards is awarded annually to NICUs that sustain performance in the top 5% for each reporting period for the award year.

NorthBay NICU will be participating in the CPQCC Grow, Baby, Grow! QI initiative. Jenny M. Quinn has been selected to participate in the expert panel for this project.

Permanente Medical Group Northern California

The Permanente Medical Group North Valley Neonatal and Newborn Department at Kaiser Permanente Roseville Medical Center is composed of 20 physicians, 15 neonatologists and five general pediatrics. Together they care for all newborns on the first three floors of the free-standing Women and Children's Center on the hospital campus. Presently, the CCS Regional Level 3 NICU has 48 beds but is expanding to 60 beds by 2020. The team runs their own Neonatal Transport Service which supports Kaiser Permanente level 1 and 2 perinatal units in South Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto and Vacaville. In 2017 there were 6200 deliveries on site with over 800 admissions to the NICU. A separate pediatric department within the medical group manages the PICU and inpatient pediatric unit. A third department within Roseville TPGM, composed of 25 pediatric subspecialists, provides on-site consultation in all areas of pediatric medicine. The Roseville NICU has a very active neonatal surgical program. Our medical service spans 28 years of developing neonatal care with The Permanente Medical Group in the Sacramento region.

Permanente Medical Group Southern California

Our 13 NICUs, caring for a population base of over 40,000 babies, are working collaboratively on a number of QI projects. Afshan Abbasi leads our regional project to maximize delayed cord clamping. Nirupa Beckha leads our regional project to achieve optimal temperature at birth in babies with gestational age <32 weeks. We are also working on a regional project to implement probiotics in NICU babies <32 weeks, increasing rooming-in of Late preterm infants, increasing skin-to-skin time, and implementing a standardized NAS management scheme.

Our “All California” monthly Kaiser Permanente neonatal journal club, led by Allen Fischer, director of NCAL KP neonatology, is now in its 13th year.

Our NICU directors have graciously participated in CPQCC focus groups to help in the development of pre-populated medical center-level annual reports in PowerPoint format. A number of our neonatologists, including Vasudha Arora, Ambresha Joshi, Karmen Parks, and Afshan Abbasi have participated in PQIP subcommittees. David Braun continues to be an active member of the CPQCC executive and PQIP committees.

We enjoyed our annual SCPMG neonatology dinner at Cool Topics in March and our first NICU Directors offsite meeting in May.

Dilip Bhatt continues to grace us with his active participation in clinical care, his productive research efforts, and his generous mentorship.

Saddleback Mednax Saddleback Mednax covers Miller Children’s Hospital in Long Beach, Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills, Orange Coast Medical Center, and Fountain Valley Regional Hospital.

The group at Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach has continued to grow, and we are excited to welcome three new faculty to our program. Rebecca Meyer, a graduate of LAUSC/CHLA program; Elaine Chu, a graduate from Harbor UCLA/CHOC; and Michael Doti, a graduate of Albany Medical Center.

From advocacy and governance, population research, QI, and experience with bedside ultrasound, each will bring a unique passion and experience to our faculty.

We congratulate our two graduating fellows. Danisha McColl will be joining The Women's Hospital in Evansville, IN and Meghali Singhal will join The Women's Hospital of Texas in Houston. We are very proud and wish them the best in their future careers.

Arwin Valencia came on as a full-time neonatologist at Saddleback Memorial in August 2017.

In April 2018, Penny Jacinto stepped down as unit Medical Director at Orange Coastal Medical Center. Roberta Bruni joined the group and is the new NICU Medical Director.

In July 2017, Rose Tan joined our group. She is working at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Miller Children’s Hospital.

In February 2018, Robert Piecuch joined our group. He is working at both Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Miller Children’s Hospital.

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, San Jose

Dongli Song was appointed as the first Eugene H. Kim Endowed Chair of Newborn Research at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.
We have established a pediatric palliative care team under the leadership of Christina Anderson (neonatologist) and Nicole Baier (pediatric intensivist) to help newborns and children with complex medical conditions. The goal is to assist their families in managing symptoms and navigate the medical system with to improve their quality of life.

We have launched a music therapy program under the leadership of Christina Anderson. The team has 12 certified individuals, including a music therapist. The goal of this program is to utilize the healing power of sound to help our neonates grow better with less apnea, less medication for NAS symptoms and pain, and help families heal from grief.

Over the last year, our NICU-dedicated psychologist Sangeeta Mallik has been working closely with nursing leadership to promote staff job satisfaction and retention.

Priya Jegatheesan was invited to present our decade-long experience in performing delayed cord clamping in very preterm infants, including multiples, at the Vermont Oxford Network Annual Congress in October 2017.

SudhaRani Narasimhan was invited to present our experiences to minimize mother-baby separation at the California Association of Neonatologists 2018 conference.

Dongli Song was invited to present at the First International Chinese Neonatology conference on April 27, 2018, Xieman, China. A team of our NICU members including Balaji Govindaswami, Dongli Song, Christina Anderson, Jeff Walker and nursing staff have been invited to join the “No Pain Delivery” outreach program in China this summer. They will do active hands-on education in seven different hospitals to promote improved newborn care.

SCVMC NICU was awarded a $419,060 grant from the Santa Clara County First Five to develop a Newborn Intensive Parenting Unit (NIPU) and a high-risk infant long-term follow-up program at school age.

The 3rd year of the NIH grant, “Somatosensory Modulation of Salivary Gene Expression and Oral Feeding in Preterm Infants” (PIs Steven Barlow and Jill Maron) was renewed this year.

Jonathan Palma was elected to be a member of the Society for Pediatric Research.

The 5th edition of Fetal and Neonatal Brain Injury was published in December 2017. Editors are David Stevenson, William Benitz, Philip Sunshine, Susan Hintz, and Maurice Druzin.

Adam Frymoyer, William Benitz, and Valerie Chock were invited speakers at the 24th Annual California Association of Neonatologists (CAN) meeting. President of CAN, Ron Cohen served as the conference moderator. Clinical fellow, Neha Kumbhat, also presented a poster at the meeting.

Alexis Davis was elected as District IX representative for the AAP Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine.

Bill Benitz gave the inaugural Philip Sunshine State of the Art lecture at the 2018 Western Society for Pediatric Research (WSPR) Annual Meeting. This lecturership was established in partnership with the WSPR by the Division of Neonatology to honor Dr. Sunshine. Dr. Benitz spoke about Dr. Sunshine's legacy of mentorship of the many individuals who have contributed to the care and well-being of babies, and the ongoing changes in evaluation and management of babies at-risk for early-onset sepsis.

In March 2018, Anna-Kaisa Niemi graduated from an online fellowship program in integrative medicine (University of Arizona). She pursued the integrative medicine fellowship concurrently with her neonatal-perinatal medicine fellowship training at Stanford. Dr. Niemi recently accepted a faculty position at Rady Children's Hospital at the University of California, San Diego.

Shazia Bhomadel led the pre-conference session on targeted neonatal echocardiography for the 3rd Annual NeoHeart Conference in Fort Worth, TX, March 22-24, 2018. She is a Board Member of the Neonatal Heart Society, which organizes this annual meeting focusing on the cardiovascular management of neonates. She also serves on the Leadership Council of the SoNPM Women in Neonatology (WIN) group, which organized its inaugural meeting at the Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies in Scottsdale, AZ. WIN plans to meet next at the).

In April, Nicole Yamada, Janene Fuerch, and Louis Halamek hosted a large team of healthcare professionals from China at a Simulation Instructor Training Program at the Center for Advanced Pediatric and Perinatal Education (CAPE). This is the latest in a regular series of programs conducted for teams from China who then return to their country to spread the CAPE methodology throughout their region.

Lou Halamek delivered the keynote address at the 10th annual meeting of the International Pediatric Simulation Society in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, May 13-17, 2018. He spoke on the need for objectivity in debriefing and the imperative to embrace augmented and virtual reality within the healthcare simulation community.

William Rhine attended a conference on high-risk obstetric and neonatal care in Beijing, China in May. He spoke on updates regarding neonatal resuscitation, antibiotic management, and respiratory care. He then rounded at Peking University Third Hospital in Beijing, and went on to four other cities in China, where he gave lectures and rounded at hospitals in each city.

William Rhine and Vinod Bhutani are collaborating with a Chinese biotech company that has developed a smartphone app to measure bilirubin levels in newborns.

Kernicterus continues to be a major cause of newborn neurological impairment in China. In May, Janene Fuerch was named a 2018 Rosenman Innovator for her work in developing medical technology to improve the health and well-being of women.

William Benitz was an invited speaker at the 1st International Symposium on PDA in Preterm Infants in Memphis, TN on May 18, 2018. His remarks addressed the challenge of identifying the few infants who might benefit from PDA closure.

At the PAS Meeting May 5-8, 2018, Ron Cohen gave an invited lecture about using TRAIN (Triage by Resource Allocation for Inpatients), a tool for triage of pediatric inpatients in a situation necessitating hospital evacuation. TRAIN is now part of the CPQCC/CAN Disaster Toolkit.

Nilima Ragavan and other Stanford Medicine colleagues conducted a one-week intensive training program in neonatal transport for the staff of Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital in Gujarat, India. This hospital serves a tribal low-resource population in Western India. The Stanford team also planned and conducted a two-day conference in neonatology for Gujarat state pediatricians; didactic sessions were followed by interactive hands-on sessions and simulation exercises.

The Stanford March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center, including Gary Shaw and David Stevenson, has shown how noninvasive blood tests for fetal development can be used to predict both gestational age and preterm delivery.

Neha Kumbhat, a 2nd year neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow, had a platform presentation at the 92nd Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposium in Aspen, CO.

Susan Hintz was invited keynote speaker at the 2018 William H. Tooley Memorial Research Symposium at the University of California, San Francisco on June 7, 2018. Neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow Anca Pasca presented a poster on the effects of hypoxia on preterm brain development at the 11th Hershey Conference on Developmental Brain Injury, June 6-9, 2018.

Krisa Van Meurs traveled to Muscat, Oman to the 1st Gulf International Neonatology Quality Conference. She assisted in the planning and performance of a one-day NeuroNICU course and spoke on neonatal seizure management and the use of inhaled nitric oxide in preterm infants.

In May, Krisa Van Meurs was an invited speaker at the 25th Encontro International de Neonatologia da Santa Casa in São Paolo, Brazil and pre-conference workshop on NeuroNICU.

The 11th annual NeuroNICU conference Innovative Care for the Newborn Brain will be held on the Stanford campus September 26-27, 2018.
Ritu Chitkara was elected to the CAN Executive Board as co-representative for the northwest region of California.

Fellow Anca M. Pasca was an invited speaker at the 14th Annual Congress of the Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics held April 18-20, 2017 in Los Angeles, CA. Dr. Pasca discussed the advances in neurodevelopmental disease modeling and drug screening using 3D human cortical spheroids, an in vitro technology that closely mimics human fetal development and allows the detailed interrogation of normal and abnormal developmental events in the laboratory.

First-year fellows Vidya Pai and Neha Kumbhat received Child Health Research Institute (CHRI) funding for a Master’s Program in Epidemiology and Clinical Research at Stanford University School of Medicine. Both will pursue the master’s degree concurrent with fellowship training from 2017-2019. Additionally, Dr. Kumbhat was awarded the CHRI clinical (MD) trainee support grant for two years for her project, “Co-Syntropin Stimulation Test as a Marker of Death or Major Morbidity in Premature Infants.” Dr. Pai’s abstract on improving antibiotic utilization was accepted to Stanford’s Resident/Fellow QI and Patient Safety Symposium.

Anoop Rao, along with faculty members Vinod Bhutani and William Rhine, led a NeoDesign Focus Group at PAS. Building off a NeoDesign Speaker Series that happens each month at Stanford, this inaugural meeting was designed to further facilitate interactions between innovators in design, development, translation, and commercialization of technology. Participants initiated a dialogue about “design thinking” in the clinical setting, the challenges of testing new devices and barriers that may limit the provision of healthcare solutions in neonatology.

Yassar Arain delivered an oral presentation on Premie BiliRecs at the iHealth 2017 Clinical Informatics Conference hosted by the American Medical Informatics Association. Premie BiliRecs is a web-based decision support tool designed for the management of hyperbilirubinemia in infants less than 35 weeks gestational age. Dr. Arain developed the tool with Jonathan Palma and an article about its development was published last year in Clinics in Perinatology.

The Bay Area Cooling Summit was hosted in March 2017 by the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford NeuroNICU team. Speakers included Ben Benitz, Krisa Van Meurs, and Valerie Chock.

Krisa Van Meurs organized a special NeuroNICU Course and Conference prior to the 2017 PAS meeting. In addition to local faculty the speakers included: Lena Hellstrom-Westas from Uppsala, Sweden; Guillaume Sant’Anna from McGill University, Montreal, Canada; and Lina Chalak, from UT Dallas. The course was attended by over 160 people from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, China and Brazil.

Shariff Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns, San Diego

We are pleased to welcome the addition of world-renowned researcher, Judith Mercer, from the Women & Infants Hospital at Brown University. She will join our research faculty at the Sharp Neonatal Research Institute. Dr. Mercer has two on-going NICHD R01-funded studies and has published extensively in the area of delayed cord clamping.

Anup Katheria and Judith Mercer have recently been funded by the NICHD to begin Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns’ second R01 multi-center trial evaluating the benefit of umbilical cord milking in depressed newborns in 12 hospitals in three different countries. The current preterm R01 trial evaluating umbilical cord milking compared to delayed cord clamping is over 20% completed.

Nancy Wight, who retired in January 2018, will continue to remain active in both the Breastfeeding Coalition and CPQCC Nutrition Dashboard.

University of California Davis

The new Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UC Davis is Satyan Lakshminrusimha. His interests include pulmonary hypertension and neonatal resuscitation and he will continue his research in the lamb model of cardiopulmonary arrest at the large animal facility at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The new Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology at UC Davis is Frank Ing. Dr. Ing is an interventional cardiologist. One of his interests is device closure of PDAs in infants, including very small premature babies.

Kristin Sohn completes her fellowship in June and has accepted a position at Renown Medical Center in Reno, NV.

Andrea Bataan completes her fellowship in June and has accepted a position at Doctor’s Medical Center in Modesto, CA.

We have three new fellows joining us in July: Peggy Chen, Ziad Alhassen and Natalie Chan.

The 2nd NEC Symposium will be held at the University of Michigan in June 2019. The first symposium was a terrific success and was held at UC Davis in April 2017. A summary of many of the presentations is available in the Feb 2018 issue of Seminars in Pediatric Surgery. A link to the issue (open access) can be found at the website for the NEC Society (NECSociety.org). Details about the first national NEC awareness day are available at the same website.

University of California Irvine

Fayez Bany-Mohammed, Muhammad Aslam and Rebecca Coleman were recognized as Orange County Physicians of Excellence.

Cherry Uy was elected as District IX SoNPM Chapter 4 representative.

Fellows going in 2018 are Alexandra Iacob from LLU and Adnan Ismail from New Jersey.

Mehgali Singhal and Danis Call are graduating from our fellowship program.

UC Irvine Neonatology Stem Cell Research Center, under the directionship of Muhammad Aslam, has received philanthropic support from The Susan Scott Foundation to explore the role of human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells in BPD.

University of California Los Angeles/Mattel Children’s Hospital

Cynthia T. Barrett will retire at the end of June 2018. Dr. Barrett has provided 49 years of dedicated service to the NICU and Division. She will be greatly missed by faculty, fellows, NICU staff and the administration.

Viviana Fajardo will join the Division of Neonatology at UCLA as a Clinical Instructor on July 1, 2018.

Juanita Lewis will be joining the faculty at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center on July 1 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Lewis will have a joint appointment and will also provide services to UCLA–Santa Monica Hospital.

University of California San Diego/Rady Children’s Hospital

The Division of Neonatology at UC San Diego and Rady Children’s Hospital are welcoming four new members to our faculty: Yassar Arain and Anna-Kaisa Niemi will be joining our Division as Assistant Professors from the Stanford University/Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Fellowship Program. Katherine Weiss will be joining the Division as an Assistant Professor from the University of Arizona.

Nathaly Sweeney has joined the Division as an Assistant Professor after graduating early from our own UC San Diego and Rady Children’s Hospital Fellowship Program.

We are excited to announce two recent promotions within the Division: Shelly Lawrence and Crystal Le have been promoted to Associate Professors of Pediatrics.

We welcome three new fellows to our Division this summer: Shiju (Sherry) Bai-Tong, Rebecca Carter, and Tina Chu.

We wish good luck to two of our graduating fellows that are moving on. Janessa Law will be joining the Neonatology Division at Seattle Children’s Hospital. Spencer Magargel will be joining the Division of Neonatology at UC San Francisco–Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland.

Evan Snyder was elected to the Association of American Physicians. Evan was also the Keynote Speaker at the 15th Annual Stem Cell Summit in Boston, MA and the 7th International Conference on the Development of Biomedical Engineering in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Erika Fernandez and Carlos Ramos have received Hispanic Center of Excellence Faculty Development Awards.

Erika Fernandez will be speaking at the AAP Perinatal District VIII Conference in Alaska in June 2019.
Carlos Ramos traveled to Cuenca, Ecuador in May 2018 where he trained the medical students and community on NRP and Helping Babies Breathe. He has continued to travel globally to reduce mortality by introducing and training medical providers in the resuscitation of infants including in Rwanda, Africa and Hyderabad, India in this year. 

Shelley Lawrence is our new Program Director for the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program. Shelley Lawrence was recently awarded a R01 as Co-Investigator for NeoChip for the inexpensive, rapid, and accurate diagnosis of neonatal sepsis.

Denise Sutter will chair Outpatient Care for Infants with Congenital Heart Disease: An Update for Pediatric Providers, on September 22, 2018 at Rady Children’s Hospital, San Diego.

The San Diego Mothers’ Milk Bank (Directors: Lisa Stellwagen and Jae Kim) has partnered with the San Diego Blood Bank to provide a community solution to offering donor human milk.

Jae Kim is on the Planning Committee for the next NEC Society Necrotizing Enterocolitis Symposium, Breaking Down the Barriers of NEC Prevention and Treatment, in Ann Arbor, MI, June 2-5, 2019.

Jae Kim will be chairing the next Advances in Neonatal and Pediatric Nutrition 2019 next summer. He will also speak in Bucharest, Romania in March 2019.

The Section would like to thank the following sponsors:

**Abbott Nutrition**
- NeoReviews/NeoReviews Plus
- Section Newsletter
- Virginia Apgar Award
- Thomas Cone Jr History Lectureship
- L Joseph Butterfield Lectureship
- Perinatal Spring Workshop
- Neonatal/Perinatal Fellows Conferences
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- Klaus Grants
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- ONTPD Lunch at NCE
- NICHD Young Investigator Conference

**Johnson & Johnson**
- Klaus Grants

**Brodsky & Martin’s Neonatology Review**
- Beth Israel Deaconess Neonatology Education Research Award
2018 Marshall Klaus Award Recipients

Jörn-Hendrik Weitkamp MD, FAAP

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (SoNPM) and this year’s Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Fund supporters, we would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2018 Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Award! The Research Committee received 39 very strong applications and all applicants deserve recognition for their strong bios, outstanding mentors, and exciting projects. Thanks to our sponsors, this year we are able to fund the top 10 ranked fellow applicants with the $5,000 research award to support their proposed research projects. Seven fellows are awarded the traditional Klaus Award in Basic or Clinical Science, one fellow receives the Beth Israel Deaconess Neonatology Education Research Award, and two fellows receive the Health Services Research Award.

Melissa H. Althouse MD – Baylor College of Medicine

Role of Gut Microbiota in Neonatal Lung Injury: Implications for Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia

Mentor: Bhagavatula Moorthy PhD

I am currently training as a Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellow at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital. From a young age, I aspired to be a pediatrician. My interest in neonatology began in medical school in Norfolk, VA and was solidified with my residency experience at the University of South Florida. It was in residency that my research interest in neonatal gastrointestinal disease started, when I was part of a team treating a patient with a devastating case of necrotizing enterocolitis. Around that time, I had begun working on NEC research in a basic science laboratory under the guidance of a physician-scientist. Investigating the molecular mechanisms behind necrotizing enterocolitis in the lab enabled me to have a greater understanding of the clinical disease and management when caring for patients in the NICU. My career path then led me to Houston for neonatology fellowship and to work under the mentorship of Dr. Moorthy, a leading expert in the field of hyperoxic lung injury and cytochrome P450. Building upon my background in neonatal intestinal disease, I developed my fellowship project to study the gut-lung axis. My long-term goal is to investigate the mechanisms by which the neonatal microbiome effects chronic lung disease. Ultimately, I hope this research will lead to novel treatment or management strategies for bronchopulmonary dysplasia. The Marshall Klaus Award will allow me to further my research and assist me to begin a career as a physician-scientist.

John J. Erikson MD, PhD – Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center

Maternal Microchimerism Transfers Cellular Immunity to Offspring

Mentor: Sing Way, MD, PhD

As a neonatologist and physician-scientist, my research goals center on improving the health of pre-term and term infants. Specifically, I am interested in maternal factors that shape the neonatal immune system, as well as fundamental differences between males and females regarding susceptibility to infection and autoimmunity. My clinical training and research experiences thus far have provided me with the knowledge and tools to tackle such questions. I completed my PhD under the guidance of John Williams MD, as part of Vanderbilt University’s Medical Scientist Training Program. My doctoral work yielded several first-author publications exploring mechanisms of CD8+ T cell impairment during viral lower respiratory tract infections. Specifically, I discovered that the cell surface receptor programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) enforces functional impairment in virus-specific T and that reversal of this signaling pathway restored anti-viral immunity. I next completed pediatric residency training at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I am currently a neonatology/perinatology fellow at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. For my research during fellowship training, I will build upon my previous research...
experiences in microbiology and immunology and apply it to neonatal immunity. My mentor, Sing Way MD, PhD, is an internationally recognized leader in the field of immunology and has made groundbreaking discoveries surrounding the immunology of pregnancy, the role of fetal microchimeric cells, and numerous neonatal infections. My proposed research will explore the exciting field of microchimerism and the role of these cells in neonatal development.

Cecily W. Fadel MD, PhD – Boston Children’s Hospital

Microfluidic Modeling to Study Interactions of the Premature Microbiome with Intestinal Epithelial Cells

Mentor: Don Ingber MD, PhD

My desire to use emerging technologies to better understand and more effectively treat human disease has been the driving force behind my many career stages from bench to bedside. I have used a wide range of experimental techniques to investigate a variety of disease processes, from hereditary hemochromatosis to breast cancer and neural tissue injury. While technical expertise is undoubtedly a necessary component of a research career, I have always been the “MacGyver” in the room. Although I do not have a mullet, I do have a passion for creative problem solving, tinkering, and seeing connections between seemingly disparate ideas and disciplines. With guidance from some of the greatest minds in science and medicine, I have fine-tuned the application of my skills to directed scientific problem solving at the laboratory bench and in the clinic. For my postdoctoral and neonatology fellowship training, I would like to apply my knowledge, skills, and extensive training to understanding the factors that affect neonatal gut health. There is ample evidence that early gut health, via the microbiome, affects susceptibility to disease in both the neonatal and adult periods. Premature neonates are a particularly vulnerable population whose altered microbiomes may promote susceptibility to infectious and inflammatory diseases. My mentor Dr. Don Ingber, the director of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, has developed a unique human gut-on-a-chip microfluidic platform that utilizes continuous fluid-flow and peristalsis-like mechanical deformations to recapitulate the villous epithelium of the human intestine. Through key institutional collaborations we will apply clinical human intestinal biopsy specimens and gut bacteria from premature neonates to the platform to better understand how the premature microbiome affects basic intestinal biology. The Marshall Klaus Award will facilitate not only this innovative research project, but also the final stages of my development into an independent physician scientist.

Scott M. Gordon MD, PhD – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Role of Interleukin-15 in Driving the Phenotype and Function of Novel CD122+ Macrophages

Mentor: Edward M. Behrens MD

Despite our best clinical care in the NICU and beyond, infants affected by intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR) face dismal short- and long-term outcomes. With our current knowledge of IUGR, we can neither detect nor reverse growth restriction of the fetus to prevent such outcomes. As a fellow in neonatal and perinatal medicine with a background in basic cellular immunology, I am fascinated by the notion that the placenta and the maternal immune system communicate with each other to ensure adequate growth of the fetus. Specifically, I study how macrophages are called upon to during pregnancy to support proper development of the placenta. As a physician-scientist and graduate of the American Board of Pediatrics Accelerated Research Pathway for residency, I hope to lead a basic and translational research group that advances understanding of the immune mechanisms underlying placental insufficiency and IUGR.

Ravikiran M. Raju MD, PhD – Picower Institute of Learning and Memory, MIT

Structural and Epigenetic Effects of Early Life Adversity and Resource Deprivation on Neurodevelopment

Mentor: Li-Huei Tsai PhD

Throughout my career, it is a deep sense of social justice that has led me to pursue research and advocacy aimed at reducing gross disparities that exist in disadvantaged communities. Up until residency, my career had focused on the problems that disproportionately affect the poor, such as tuberculosis and high maternal mortality. I saw poverty as a collection of different pathologies that, if addressed individually, would lead to better outcomes. However, as a physician caring for children and getting to intimately know families in the most neglected areas of Boston, my understanding of poverty began to evolve. Whether it was the higher frequency of asthma attacks or behavioral problems in school, I found myself caring for the same underserved children over and over again. Turning to the literature, I found a rich body of evidence confirming my suspicions; that even when controlling for access to medical care, poor children had worse overall health and cognitive outcomes than their more well-off counterparts. As a result, I came to view poverty itself as the root cause of poor outcomes. With a desire to understand the physiological derangements that occur when children are...
exposed to this early adversity, I began to explore potential research opportunities and had the fortune of meeting Professor Li-Huei Tsai. Though conversations with her, I began to see the field of neuroepigenetics as setting a precedent for elucidating how experience affects biology. With Professor Tsai’s support, I decided to join the lab during my final year of residency and have started to use epigenetic tools to identify molecular markers of resource deprivation.

**Elizabeth S. Taglauer MD, PhD – Boston Children’s Hospital**

**Mesenchymal Stromal Cell-Derived Exosome Therapy for the Prevention of Fetal Growth Restriction and Improvement of Neonatal Lung Disease**

Mentor: Stella Kourembanas MD

As a neonatology fellow with an extensive background in placental immunology, I joined the Kourembanas lab to investigate placental-based diagnostics and therapeutics that can help ameliorate fetal lung disease. I have studied both human and rodent placental biology for over 10 years and have developed a unique niche in examining how this vital organ dictates neonatal health. I am currently exploring a mechanistic connection between the maternal pre-eclamptic environment and neonatal lung disease and whether mesenchymal stem cell-derived therapies can improve the intrauterine environment to facilitate improved fetal lung development. A native of the southern United States, my training in medicine and research has taken me across the globe, including fellowships at the Lawrence Berkeley National laboratory in Berkeley, CA and the Marie Curie Institute in Paris, France. I joined the Harvard Perinatal-Neonatal Fellowship Program in 2016 and will continue my clinical career as a neonatal physician-scientist with ongoing exploration of the placenta to understand and improve neonatal disease. I am so grateful to have had the benefit of working with gifted teachers, but I have also experienced some of the challenges in modern medical education, including reduced opportunities for hands-on learning due to reduced work hours and increased competing demands on trainees’ time. My clinical and research experience as a resident and fellow at Columbia University Medical Center provided me a unique perspective to design an intervention to improve our ongoing pursuit of placentally-derived diagnostics and therapeutics to ameliorate neonatal health.

**Kent A. Willis MD – The University of Tennessee Health Science Center**

**The Intestinal Microbiome Influence on Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia**

Mentor: Joseph Pierre PhD

As a second-year neonatology fellow at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center my research interests include a passion for understanding the etiology of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), especially in relation to emerging developments in mucosal immunology. With a mixed background in basic and clinical research, I have assembled a team of outstanding mentors to pursue a translational approach to host-microbe interactions in BPD. Building on expertise in the neonatal respiratory immune system from the Cormier laboratory, extensive experience in host-microbiome interactions from the Pierre laboratory, and clinical trials and neonatal immunology expertise from Dr. Talati, this cross-disciplinary research platform allows me to thoroughly explore the role of the gut-lung axis in BPD. In addition to directly understanding the pathophysiology of BPD and to hopefully translating to clinical interventions, my research is also designed to foster foundational skills in planning, conducting, and publishing translational research with multi-pronged approaches. Support from the Marshall Klaus Award enables me to dedicate more time to mature as a translational researcher. Utilizing the collective research skills fostered through this and related projects, my goal is to pursue a career in academic neonatology focusing on respiratory mucosal immunology.

**Amy E. Heiderich MD – Columbia University**

**Improving Resident Delivery Room Resuscitation with Just-In-Time Training**

Mentor: Tina Leone MD

I am a second-year neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow at New York Presbyterian Columbia University Medical Center, with research interests in neonatal resuscitation and medical education. I believe that the importance of effective and efficient education of medical providers is paramount to maintain and improve patient outcomes. I have had the benefit of working with gifted teachers, but I have also experienced some of the challenges in modern medical education, including reduced opportunities for hands-on learning due to reduced work hours and increased competing demands on trainees’ time. My clinical and research experience as a resident and fellow at Columbia University Medical Center provided me a unique perspective to design an intervention to improve our neonatal resuscitation education for pediatric residents, with a goal to eventually improve training for all neonatal providers. As a fellow, I have gained valuable clinical experience in the resuscitation of newborns and have planned for a career that focuses on providing excellent neonatal care, educating providers of all levels, and investigating new ways of using simulation and other teaching methods to improve the care we provide to newborns.
Alejandra Barrero-Castillero MD, MPH – Boston Children’s Hospital

Characterization of Stress in Immigrant Families in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Mentor: Charles A. Nelson PhD

As a neonatology fellow at the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Program, I have been increasingly passionate about understanding disparities and the social determinants of newborn health and outcomes. My career goal is to become an academic neonatologist and health services researcher focused on the effects of early psychosocial adversity on brain and behavioral development, particularly the immediate and long-term impact of stress in immigrant families. My own experience as a clinician and immigrant in the U.S. has enabled me to understand the issues faced by immigrant families of infants in the NICU in a unique way. With the guidance of my mentor, Dr. Charles Nelson (expert on stress and early life adversity), and with the support of the AAP Marshall Klaus Award, we will perform an exploratory sequential mixed methods study to explore the effects of immigration experience and stress in the NICU context. In addition, I have been accepted into the Harvard-wide Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship with additional mentorship and support to successfully conduct my study. Characterizing stress in immigrant families will provide the foundation for further research to improve the quality, delivery of care, and outcomes in this highly understudied and underserved group.

Vidya V. Pai MD – Stanford University

The Referral and Follow-up Patterns of High-Risk Infants

Mentor: Susan Hintz MD, MS Epi

My research interests are in neonatal epidemiology, specifically understanding risk factors and characteristics that contribute to disparities in the outcomes and follow-up care of high-risk neonates. After completing residency at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, I chose the neonatal fellowship program at Stanford University because of the opportunities available for population-based research and the ability to work with mentors such as Drs. Susan Hintz and Henry Lee who are leaders in the field of perinatal and neonatal epidemiology. I am currently a second-year fellow and am also pursuing a Master’s Degree in Epidemiology and Clinical Research at Stanford University. The Marshall Klaus Health Services Research Award and this proposed research will help to improve the quality, delivery of care, and outcomes in this highly understudied and underserved group.

Focus on Global Health

A Pragmatic Approach to Implementing QI in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: The Ethiopian QI Initiative

Carl Bose MD, FAAP

Neonatal mortality remains a burden in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs). High mortality is attributed in part to a lack of knowledge and skill among providers. To overcome this deficiency, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) developed a suite of educational programs, the Helping Babies Survive (HBS) programs. These programs increase knowledge and skills and reduce mortality in some settings. For example, early neonatal mortality declined by 47% in eight hospitals in Tanzania following education of providers with Helping Babies Breathe, one of the HBS programs (Msemo et al. Pediatrics 2013). However, there is growing recognition of disparities in neonatal follow-up care. The overall goal of my current research is to improve our understanding of disparities in the patterns of referral of high-risk infants with the hope of identifying potentially modifiable factors that can improve outcomes for this population of infants.
that clinical training, while essential, is insufficient for improving and sustaining life-saving newborn care in many low-resource settings. Continuous quality improvement (QI) is often needed to assess gaps in the quality of care and to plan, test, and implement changes to ensure that care is delivered correctly and consistently.

In high-income countries, QI has become part of the fabric of medical care. By contrast, in LMICs, QI strategies are rarely used. Initial attempts to implement QI strategies are often difficult because providers are confused by QI concepts and jargon. This confusion may result from the limited availability of clear and simple guidance on how to implement improvement efforts. To respond to this need, the AAP, in collaboration with the Survive and Thrive Global Development Alliance (S&T GDA: http://www.surviveandthrive.org), developed Improving Care of Mothers and Babies: A Guide for Improvement Teams (the Guide).

The Guide provides step-by-step instructions to providers and improvement teams to plan, test, implement, continuously assess, and sustain interventions to improve the quality of care for mothers and babies (Table 1). The Guide is available at no charge online at the AAP International Resources website: https://internationalresources.aap.org/.

We are currently testing the effectiveness of the Guide as a teaching tool in 18 primary and secondary hospitals in Ethiopia. This project will address several questions: 1) Will use of the Guide as a teaching tool in a workshop setting increase knowledge about QI methods? 2) Will it be an effective tool in guiding facility-based QI initiatives? 3) Is supportive supervision or coaching a necessary accompaniment to the use of the Guide?

The project is a collaborative effort among investigators at the University of North Carolina (UNC), the AAP and the Ethiopian Pediatric Society (EPS). The effectiveness of implementing the HBS educational programs supplemented with the Guide will be tested by comparing key indicators of processes and outcomes of newborn care (Table 2) during a baseline period after HBS training to processes and outcomes after additional training using the Guide.

In June 2017, two representatives from each hospital attended a workshop in Addis Ababa during which they learned how to: 1) collect indicator data; 2) enter data into the data management system; and 3) interpret run charts. Thereafter, each hospital began collecting data describing key indicators. Data are entered into a purpose-designed digital program and downloaded to a management system housed at a data coordinating center (DCC) in the EPS offices. The DCC generates summaries and run charts of selected indicators for each hospital.

In December 2017, the representatives participated in a second workshop during which they: 1) learned and practiced QI methods using the Guide as a teaching/learning tool; 2) identified gaps in the quality of their care using baseline data; and 3) chose a gap for improvement and developed an aims statement. They returned to their hospitals following the workshop to assemble a QI team and initiate the project.

Based on pre- and post-test written examinations, teaching in the workshop setting increases knowledge about QI methods among providers with little or no prior knowledge about QI. With this knowledge, 80% of providers who attended the workshop felt confident that they could conduct a QI project in their hospitals with the support of a mentor; only 20% felt they could conduct a project without a mentor.

Compiled data returned to each hospital for the purposes of ongoing evaluation of performance were thought to be a valuable resource, particularly when provided in a run chart format. Run charts were often posted in a location that was visible to providers.

After the second workshop, all hospitals formed QI teams and identified a gap in quality as the focus of an improvement project. The goals of these projects included:

1. Improving skin-to-skin care during the first hour after birth (10 hospitals);
2. Measuring newborn temperature within two hours after birth and decreasing the incidence of hypothermia (6 hospitals);
3. Improving handwashing (1 hospital); and
4. Delaying cord clamping to at least one minute after birth (1 hospital).

All hospitals tested one large-scale change. Half of the hospitals demonstrated modest to substantial improvement in these processes of care; the other half showed no improvement. Examples of run charts from two hospitals in which improvements in a process of care occurred are depicted in Figures 1 and 2.

The project has taught valuable lessons. Sufficient knowledge about QI methods can be acquired in the classroom, but this alone does not necessarily prepare providers to perform a QI project in the absence of on-site mentoring. Data abstracted from medical records may not be reliable and may require independent collection for confirmation. The availability of data is a powerful tool for the identification of gaps in quality and for providing incentive for improvement, but the collection of data continuously is a burden. Compared to continuous monitoring of indicators, a more economical approach may be to periodically audit practices suspected of being performed poorly.
**Figure 1.** Percentage of newborns receiving skin-to-skin care during the first hour after birth in Hospital #1. This run chart illustrates an increase in skin-to-skin care following an educational intervention.

**Figure 2.** Percentage of newborns with a temperature measurement within two hours after birth in Hospital #2. This run chart illustrates an increase in temperature measurement following two interventions.

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**Save the Date!**

**10th Annual Topics in Neonatal Nutrition and Advances in Neonatal Care**

**October 23-24, 2018**

**Tappan Hill Mansion, Tarrytown, New York**

This year’s speakers will include

- Michael Georgieff, Josef Neu, Sagori Mukhopadhyay,
- Rachel Hopper, Cassandra Josephson, Jae Kim,
- Tarah Colaizy, and Courtney Wusthoff

**Presentation of the AAP**

Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Award

2018 Recipient Jen-Tien Wung MD

For more information contact: Marlena Schreifels

Office of Continuing education (518) 262-5828 schreim@amc.edu
The EQII project was funded by the S&T GDA and the Laerdal Foundation.

Section members who collaborated in the development of the Guide and its implementation:

**Co-authors of the Guide**
- Carl Bose (UNC)
- Tyler Hartmann (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center)
- Beena Kamath-Rayne (Cincinnati Children’s Hospital)
- Susan Niermeyer (University of Colorado)
- Jackie Patterson (UNC)

**Participants in the EQII**
- Carl Bose (UNC)
- Denise Jones (UNC)
- Jackie Patterson (UNC)
- Sara Berkelhamer (University of Buffalo)
- Renate Savich (University of Mississippi)

**Ethiopian Participants in the EQII**
- Dr. Bogale Worku, Executive Director of the EPS and Director of the EQII
- Regional Mentors: Megerssa Kumera, Fikirte Tilahun, and Azeb Sibhatu
- Data Manager for the DCC: Konjit Tola

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**Table 1: The Six-step Table of Contents of Improving Care for Mothers and Babies: A Guide for Improvement Teams**

- Create an improvement team
- Decide what to improve
- Choose the barriers to overcome
- Plan and test change
- Determine if the change resulted in improvement
- Make improvement the norm

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**Table 2: Ethiopian Quality Improvement Initiative Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Numerator</th>
<th>Denominator</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of newborns not crying/breathing after drying and stimulation who receive bag mask ventilation</td>
<td>All newborns not crying/breathing after drying and stimulation who received positive pressure breaths</td>
<td>Newborns not crying/breathing at birth</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of newborns who are placed skin-to-skin for at least one hour after birth</td>
<td>All newborns placed skin-to-skin at the time of delivery and who remain skin-to-skin for a full hour after birth</td>
<td>All newborns</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of newborns who initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth</td>
<td>All newborns who attempt to latch at the breast within one hour of birth</td>
<td>All newborns</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of newborns who receive chlorhexidine cord care</td>
<td>All newborns who receive chlorhexidine cord care</td>
<td>All newborns</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of newborns who receive tetracycline eye care</td>
<td>All newborns who receive tetracycline eye care</td>
<td>All newborns</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of newborns who receive vitamin K</td>
<td>All newborns who receive an intramuscular injection of vitamin K</td>
<td>All newborns</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of newborns who receive BCG and polio vaccine</td>
<td>All newborns who receive BOTH the BCG AND polio vaccines</td>
<td>All newborns</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of newborns who are hypothermic at any time within one hour after birth</td>
<td>All newborns with any temperature ≤36.5°C during the first hour after birth</td>
<td>All newborns with a recorded temperature in the first hour of life</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of LBW/preterm newborns (&lt;2000g) who receive KMC</td>
<td>All newborns &lt;2000g who were treated with KMC (intermittent or continuous)</td>
<td>Newborns &lt;2000g</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of newborns treated for sepsis</td>
<td>All newborns who receive at least two days of IV or IM antibiotics</td>
<td>All newborns</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of stillbirth</td>
<td>All non-breathing infants without a heart rate at the time of delivery</td>
<td>All facility births</td>
<td>12/1,000 births*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of neonatal death before discharge</td>
<td>All newborns born alive who die before discharge</td>
<td>All newborns</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Memoriam…
Kathryn Noel Farrow

The field of neonatal-perinatal medicine lost a remarkable physician, scientist, mentor, advocate and friend with the passing of Dr. Kathryn Noel Farrow, 46, on February 7th, 2018 following a three-year battle with cancer. Kathy studied chemistry at The Colorado College and received her MD and PhD degrees at the University of Colorado, Denver. This was followed by pediatric training at SUNY Stony Brook in New York. Dr. Farrow finished a fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine at The Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and joined the faculty of Northwestern University in 2005, rising rapidly through the academic ranks to Professor of Pediatrics in 2017.

Kathy served as a Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Director at Lurie Children’s from 2013-2018 and her passion and advocacy for fellow education will not be forgotten.

Kathy is remembered for her love of newborn infants and their families, and her devotion to her wife and 4 children.

Dr. Farrow’s work, funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than 10 years, included a rethinking of how oxygen is used to support neonatal respiratory failure. Her advances were recognized through many awards, including a Young Investigator Award from the American Heart Association, the Richard D. Rowe Young Investigator Award from the Society for Pediatric Research, and election to the American Pediatric Society. Dr. Farrow’s own scientific contributions were greatly amplified by her passionate mentorship. One of her greatest legacies is her numerous trainees and young physicians who have launched successful medical and scientific careers.

Kathy is survived by her wife, Rachel Hegarty; her children Daniel, Maggie, and Liam; her mother, Joyce; her brother Andrew; and preceded in death by her father Stephen and son Stephen James.

Raye-Ann deRegnier and Robin Steinhorn

Remembering
Michael P. Sherman

On September 22, 2017, the neonatology community lost Michael P. Sherman MD, PhD, FAAP following complications from a stroke. Dr. Sherman was Professor Emeritus of Child Health, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, and Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, University of California, Davis. He was a well-known neonatologist and physician-scientist who studied the immunology of Group B Streptococcus pneumonia, the role of bacteria, the microbiome and Paneth cells in necrotizing enterocolitis and many other topics in neonatal medicine (1-3). Most recently, Dr. Sherman and others led a randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled trial of recombinant human lactoferrin in infants with birth weight of 750-1500g (4).

Dr. Sherman authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and 24 book chapters and gave a large number of national and international presentations (5). He was a member of NIH study sections and multiple editorial and review boards with over 40 years of service to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine, and as a member of the Society of Pediatric Research, European Pediatric Research Society, American Pediatric Society, and the Perinatal Research Society.


Joern-Hendrik Weitkamp MD, FAAP

Tribute to the Late Ruth Silverman

Ruth (Roo) Silverman, the widow of neonatology legend Dr. William Silverman, died peacefully on Valentine’s Day at the age of 97. She was surrounded by her three children Dan, Jenny, and David. She is survived by Dan and his wife Janice Gray of Wellfleet, MA; Jenny and husband Bob Follansbee of Boston, MA; and David and wife Starcy Silverman of Seattle, WA. She is also survived by two grandchildren.
Many of Roo’s fondest memories were of reunions among an international group of Bill’s colleagues, who regularly got together at various locales around the world; and of lengthy stays in Oxford, England and Bellagio, Italy. Ruth adopted the nickname “Roo” after she learned about kangaroos, and she went on to collect an extensive collection of kangaroos of all sizes, made of wood, porcelain, crystal, fabric and leather. Roo’s kangaroos have been on display at public libraries, and were an endless source of interest from all her visitors.

Roo was proud of her three children, her career as a nurse, and her travels around the world — and maintaining contact with her large circle of friends and family. Following Bill’s death in 2004, Roo continued to live at the Tamalpais life-care community in Larkspur where she and Bill had moved in 1998. In 2014, she made the difficult decision to move back to the Boston area to be closer to two of her three children. She moved into Orchard Cove in Canton, MA, where the kind and caring staff took care of her until her death.

I first met Roo in Hawaii, at the 2008 PAS, where I gave the Silverman Lecture. Having known Bill, and been encouraged by him to pursue my interests in ethics and palliative care, I shouldn’t have been surprised at how lively, sharp-minded, strong willed, and pleasant she was. While I had heard from Bill that she was a retired nurse, I learned only at that time, from Roo, that she not only worked at Babies Hospital in New York (where she met Bill when he was a pediatric resident in the 1940’s) and a Marin County pediatric office, but she was also a former hospice nurse/volunteer... something she did until age 86!

A few years ago, when my wife and I told Roo that we would be moving to Kansas City, she burst out singing the old Rodgers and Hammerstein song, “Everything’s up to date in Kansas City, they’ve gone about as far as they can go...” from the musical, Oklahoma. Roo loved musicals and the theater. She will be missed by many.

Memorial contributions in Roo’s name may be made to:
Blind Babies Foundation, 2381 Mariner Square Dr. #275, Alameda, CA 94501, or
Hospice by the Bay, 17 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Larkspur, CA 94939

A portion of this tribute was adapted from an on-line memorial by the Marin Independent Journal.

Brian S. Carter
MOC Part 4 Credit for Posters-Platforms Presented at Section/Council Programs at the AAP National Conference

In 2018, several Sections and Councils will be accepting abstracts describing quality improvement projects. If you are planning to submit an abstract describing a quality improvement project you have participated in, you may be eligible for 25 American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 4 points.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), through its MOC Portfolio, will approve eligible peer-reviewed poster or platform presentations describing a quality improvement project presented at a Council or Section H Program at the National Conference for MOC Part 4 credit (25 points). Any author or co-author of a poster or platform presented at the H program is eligible for this credit if they meet the requirements described below. **Note: to be eligible for MOC credit, pediatricians must be individually named as an author at the time of abstract submission. Naming a network as an author and listing those members in another area of the abstract, poster, or oral presentation does not qualify.**

There will be no fee for obtaining this credit if the author/co-author qualifies through the AAP MOC Portfolio (if they choose to apply directly to the American Board of Pediatrics, there is a $75 application fee). This program will only apply to pediatrics and pediatric subspecialties boarded by the American Board of Pediatrics.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR MOC-ELIGIBILITY FOR POSTER AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

- At a minimum, poster/oral presentations presented at the Section/Council program should include:
  - The specific aim of the quality improvement project that describes the target population, desired numerical improvement, and timeframe for achieving the improvement
  - The process for improvement (e.g., QI methodology utilized, how the intervention was implemented, how tests of change were used to modify interventions, who was involved, etc)
  - Graphical display of data: a minimum of baseline and 2 follow-up measurements
  - A discussion of the degree to which the aim was achieved
  - Factors that affected success
  - Next steps for the QI project
- Part 4 MOC credit will generally not be given for descriptions of studies to assess whether an intervention is effective, the development and validation of tools that could be used for quality improvement, quality measure development, or retrospective studies of administrative claims data.

**Poster/oral presentations describing projects already approved for MOC Part 4 credit are not eligible.**

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

- Follow the instructions in the abstract guidelines received from your Section/Council.
- Prior to entering your abstract information online, be sure to select the “QI Project” radio button to indicate you are submitting an abstract describing a QI project.

**IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE**

- If your abstract is accepted for poster or oral presentation at the Section/Council H program, and you have selected the QI project radio button, you will be contacted by the QI Certification Program Specialist with further instructions.
- If interested in obtaining MOC credit, you will be required to submit your poster or slide presentation to ensure the requirements above are included. Consultation prior to the H program presentation will be available upon request, if the poster or slides are submitted by **October 19, 2018**. If you are not interested in consultation, you must submit your poster or slides by **November 12, 2018** and if they do not meet the requirements above, you will not be eligible for credit.
- You will be required to submit a simple attestation form by **November 12, 2018**.

*Note: Your abstract may still be accepted for presentation, even if you do not meet the requirements above. In this case, your presentation will not be eligible for MOC credits, but can still be presented as part of the program.*

For additional information about the MOC Portfolio Program, or the MOC requirements for posters-platforms, please contact Tori Davis, QI and Certification Program Specialist at [tdavis@aap.org](mailto:tdavis@aap.org).
The SONPM would like to thank Abbott Nutrition for sponsoring the following section activities!

NeoReviews/NeoReviews Plus
Section Newsletter
Virginia Apgar Award
Thomas Cone Jr History Lectureship
L. Joseph Butterfield Lectureship
Perinatal Spring Workshop
Neonatal/Perinatal Fellows Conferences
TECaN NCE & Workshop Travel Grants
Gerald Merenstein Lecture
Section Faculty Dinner
NICHD Young Investigator Conference
NCE Poster Session & Reception
ONTPD Networking Session
NeoPREP
APGAR Award Dinner
TECaN NCE Reception
Women in Neonatology