For the fourth year in a row, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine partnered with the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) to sponsor the AAP/VON Scholars Program for 2016, which included travel and registration support to the VON Annual Quality Congress. In 2016, the five selected AAP/VON Scholars were supported to attend the 2016 VON Annual Quality Congress in Chicago, IL from September 9-12. The 2016 Scholars included: Alissa Doherty (Fellow, C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital at the University of Michigan), Bianca Leonardi (Fellow, UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital), Thomas Murphy (Faculty, MidAtlantic Neonatology Associates, Morristown, NJ), Radhika Narang (Fellow, Children’s of Mississippi at University of Mississippi Medical Center), and Erin Tkach (Fellow, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia). We hope that everyone who participated in the 2016 VON Annual Quality Congress this year had a productive meeting and traveled home safely!

This year over 40 fellows in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine attended the VON Annual Quality Congress. Trainee specific programming this year included a special preconference focused on basic quality improvement methodology, entitled ‘Jump Starting Quality 2.0’. In addition to fellows, it was attended by other disciplines, including neonatologists, nurse practitioners, nurses, and various other professionals. Additionally, there was a ‘Meet the Professor’ breakfast with Dr. Jeffrey Gould from Stanford University, as well as a reception for fellows. Additional VON programming included exemplary presentations on topics ranging between telemedicine, antibiotic stewardship, health disparities, new evidence on prevention and treatment of BPD, and many more. Through breakout sessions, participants had the opportunity to practice new techniques for airway management, learn about building run charts, the creation of hospital mission control centers, and discuss parent support in the NICU, among other topics. There was also excellent and enthusiastic participation in the Learning Fair with over 220 posters representing different NICUs and state groups around the country and the world, who are translating best practices and evidence into action to improve the quality, safety, and value of care for newborns.

Between the prestigious presentations mentioned above as well as the fellow social hour, networking breakfasts and lunches, and Saturday Night Live themed social event, the VON Annual Quality Congress was a tremendous success, advancing knowledge in our field, focusing on quality improvement, and presenting outstanding opportunities to network and learn from the VON community of practice.

Thank you to all of the participants in this excellent meeting and of course thank you to the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine and VON for their support. We would also like to thank our dedicated colleagues who have devoted their lives and careers to the improvement of healthcare around the world. The 2016 Vermont Oxford Network Quality Congress has been dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mohammad Wassim Maaz and to the other physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals around the world who have died practicing in the face of humanitarian crises and war.

To honor their sacrifice and support the work of Doctors Without Borders around the globe, Vermont Oxford Network will be raising funds and matching dollar for dollar donations up to $15,000 made through the VON fundraising page through the end of September 2016. To make a tax deductible donation and receive VON matching funds please visit our fundraising page:

http://events.doctorswithoutborders.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.personalCampaign&participantID=3729