

News of The Academy of Neonatal Nursing

Academy Members Are Special

As we flip the calendar page from December 2005 to January 2006, we take time to reflect on what we've done in the past year and resolve to make important changes for the new year. It is an opportunity to wipe the slate clean and start again. Associations such as the Academy of Neonatal Nursing not only plan for the coming year, but look ahead to 2007 and beyond as we prepare new programs for the Academy's members. In doing so, we know that Academy members are different from other NICU nurses.

The next time you are in the your unit, look around at the nurses who are working with you. If there are twenty nurses on your shift, at least ten, and as many as fifteen, do not belong to any nursing association. They do not subscribe to any professional journal nor are they as likely as Academy members to go to educational conferences. Many are relying on the knowledge they received in nursing school and what they glean from working in an NICU to stay current with the new standards of care that come out of research and clinical practice.

No one knows how many NICU nurses there are in the United States. Attempts to find an accurate figure have failed. However, the estimate is that there are between 40,000 and 50,000 Level II and Level III NICU nurses working in the nearly 1,500 units. Out of that number, only 7,366 belong to the Academy of Neonatal Nursing. A smaller number belong to other nursing organizations; however, the percentage of nurses who belong to a professional neonatal nursing association pales compared to other nursing specialties.

If you had a premature baby, wouldn't you want the nurse taking care of your baby to be knowledgeable about current modes of therapy? Wouldn't you want her to know how other units are treating babies who have the same problems that your baby has? Wouldn't you want that nurse to know what is in the current literature? If that's what you'd want for your baby, don't you think that others would want the same for their babies?

Academy members are special because they have taken the step of joining a professional nursing association. They are special because they receive *Neonatal Network*,[®] the first nursing journal to focus on neonatal intensive care. They are special because they support nursing research through the Academy's donations to the Foundation for Neonatal Research and Education. Wouldn't you want a special nurse taking care of your baby?

Because of you, we are able to continually expand the benefits the Academy has to offer. Visit the Academy's website to see our most current offering by Dr. Tom Harris (see article below). This is only the beginning of the increased educational opportunities the Academy will be offering in the future. To each and every nurse who has supported the Academy this past year, we thank you. Academy members are special.

Academy Offers New Online Courses

The Academy is pleased to announce the start of its new online continuing education courses. Dr. Tom Harris has provided the Academy with a treasure trove of presentations that the Academy will use as the basis for its online educational offerings. All courses will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, for the Academy's use. Presentations will be available to Academy members at a reduced fee (Academy members may use their 15 free contact hours for all online courses) and to non-members. The first presentation is *Minor Congenital Anomalies: Recognition and Significance in the Neonatal Period* by Thomas Harris, MD, and Mahesh Kotwal, MD. The course may be accessed through the Academy's website: www.academyonline.org.

It is vitally important that we receive your feedback on this course. In computer software language, this is our "Beta" or test version of the courses we will present in the future. There may be glitches in the program that we are unaware of. After you

25 Years

ACADEMY NEWS



complete the course, please evaluate all aspects of the course. Your feedback is vital as we work on the next presentation.

We currently have more than fifty presentations developed by Dr. Harris. We are looking for additional reviewers for this material. If, after reviewing the first presentation, you would like to become a reviewer, please send an email to the Academy's office (contact information is on the Academy's website).

We hope you enjoy the current offering and look forward to your feedback. We will publish a list of future offerings in the next few issues of *Neonatal Network*.[®]

Establishing Essential Nursing Competencies and Curricula Guidelines for Genetics and Genomics

The rapid translation of genetic and genomic science to clinical care has major implications for the nursing profession, which has limited preparation in genetics. In response to this deficit, an initiative was launched to define the essential genetic and genomic competencies for all registered nurses regardless of academic preparation, role, or clinical specialty. The purpose of the competencies are to guide academic curriculum content/learning activities based on the current state of the evidence and guide the continuing education and specialty certification of practicing registered nurses. The ultimate goal is to prepare

the entire nursing workforce to deliver genetically and genomically competent healthcare. To establish the essential competencies, a Steering Committee (SC) of federal, academic, and national leaders in nursing was established which identified, reviewed, analyzed, and compared competencies recommended in existing published and peer-reviewed documents (including NCHPEG Competencies).

A writing team from the SC was selected and the first draft of the competencies was completed and reviewed/approved by the SC. The proposed competencies were then presented for critique to nurse representatives in January 2005 and were posted for public comment at <http://NursingWorld.org/practice>. An invitational meeting was held September 21-22, 2005, of key stakeholders in collaboration with the ANA. Fifty participants reviewed, discussed, and modified the document with ultimate consensus on the competencies achieved. An action plan for endorsement and integration of the competencies into curricula, the NCLEX examination, specialty certification processes, continuing education, and accreditation is in process. We will report on the details of the competency development and consensus process, the status of the competencies, endorsement, and integration plans as a model for other healthcare professionals' consideration. The Academy of Neonatal Nursing LLC was represented at the September meeting by Julieanne Schiefelbein, NNP, Primary Children's Medical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah.

2006 Recruitment Program

Earn \$10 for Each New Member You Recruit

Recruit one new Academy member and receive a \$10 coupon. This coupon may be used to purchase an Academy sweatshirt, buy books published by NICU INK Book Publishers, lower your conference tuition at the Academy's national or advanced practice meeting, or decrease your membership dues for next year! You may earn an unlimited number of \$10 coupons. Each new member recruited cannot have been a member of the Academy during the past 24 months. Just fill out the form below and send it with the membership applications of the nurses you've recruited. You will receive your \$10 coupons in the mail as soon as the membership applications have been processed. By recruiting just one new member, you will be doing the Academy a tremendous service. If you have any questions, please call the Academy at 707-568-2168.

Your Name (please print all information): _____

Address: _____

Academy Membership #: _____

Number of new members you've recruited: _____

IMPORTANT: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM.

Coupons earned are good until December 31, 2007.

Send this form and the completed membership applications, together, to:

The Academy of Neonatal Nursing, 2270 Northpoint Parkway, Santa Rosa, CA 95407-7398.