

News of The Academy of Neonatal Nursing

Shirley J. Brott, RN, BSN, MEd
Editor

Introducing The Academy's New Editor, Shirley Brott

Change is constant of both the NICU and our work here at the Academy. We are always searching to find new ways to improve our educational content and to make our offerings more interesting and useful to you, our members. Now, we take great pleasure in introducing Shirley Brott, RN, BSN, MEd, as the new editor of the "News of the Academy of Neonatal Nursing."

Shirley received her RN diploma from the Washington Hospital School of Nursing in Washington, DC, and her BSN from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. In addition, she received a master's from Boston University. Shirley worked as a CNS in the NICU at the Region V Perinatal Center at Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia, and as a perinatal educator for the State of Virginia.

Shirley has been a long time manuscript reviewer for *Neonatal Network*[®] and was a founding member of the Washington Metropolitan Association of Neonatal Nurses. She is the recipient of several awards, including a nursing scholarship to pursue her master's degree. She is a published author. In addition, she has lived in Germany and Saudi Arabia and has traveled extensively throughout Europe, the Middle East, and the Orient.

Shirley now resides in Texas and brings a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to her newest role. We believe that she will do an outstanding job for the Academy and for you, the readers and members.

Jay Goldsmith Will Speak at the 6th National Neonatal Nurses Meeting in Las Vegas

Jay P. Goldsmith, MD, is cochair of the American Academy of Pediatrics National Neonatal Resuscitation Steering Committee and is a U.S. representative for the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation. Through his research, publications, and lectures, Dr. Goldsmith is working diligently to improve respiratory outcomes of neonates on oxygen ventilation. Dr. Goldsmith will share the encouraging results of his latest programs aimed at reducing the incidence of bronchopulmonary dysplasia and retinopathy of prematurity. The Respiratory Care Quality Improvement Program and Oxygen Targeting Program will be discussed during his Friday and Saturday sessions in Las Vegas.

Academy Membership Has Its Benefits

- **\$50 Conference Discount:** Sign up now for your membership so you can save on the registration fee for the 6th National Neonatal Nurses Meeting in September.
- **15 FREE Contact Hours:** Each member is provided with free CEUs through completion of courses offered in this journal.
- **Journal Subscription:** With a two-year and three-year membership, you save even more!

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- **The Academy Bookstore:** Select from 18 books written for the neonatal nurse, including 2004 AJN Book of the Year, *Infection in the Neonate: A Comprehensive Guide to Assessment Management*, by Debbie Fraser Askin, RNC, MN. All books are discounted for Academy members.
- **\$1,000 Academy of Neonatal Nursing Scholarship Award:** Go to academyonline.org for scholarship details and application.

Since its inception, the Academy has been a consistent supporter of the Foundation for Neonatal Nursing and Research (FNRE). According to Pat Johnson, a FNRE Board member, *"The focus of FNRE, as a charitable, nonprofit organization, is to provide scholarship funds for the well-prepared, well-educated, advanced neonatal nurse who is willing to take on professional leadership roles in clinical and educational areas."*

The Academy has no input on the decisions about who receives FNRE scholarships. Our donation is made to support important research that can be conducted to help all nurses give better care to their patients in the NICU. We urge Academy members who are interested in returning to school to apply to FNRE if they need scholarship assistance.

A Personal Guide to Scholarships

Are you in school? Did you get a scholarship? Why not? Summer break is the perfect time to begin the application process. Most applications are time sensitive; just getting started with the application process is the first and most important step. Here are some tips from The Academy:

1. **Find a scholarship.** This is the easy part. The Academy of Neonatal Nursing (ANN) and the Foundation of Neonatal Research and Education (FNRE) offer great scholarships for Academy members pursuing their neonatal nursing career. Scholarship applications for ANN are available at academyonline.org and for FNRE at inurse.com/fnre.
2. **Write down your educational goals and what you are going to do with the degree.** For example: "My educational goal is to obtain an NNP from the University of GoodNurses by the year 2008. With this degree, I plan to help develop and implement an NICU Noise Reduction Program for GoodNurses Hospital." Perfect!
3. **Use classes you are taking to help you with the scholarship.** Need to write a paper (or four)? Using the above example, write papers about the Noise

Reduction Program. The more you write about your passion, the more you will be comfortable with it. You can use these papers later in the development of your program.

4. **Ask a professor or teacher to proofread your application.** Coworkers, friends, fellow students, and family members can also proofread your application, but be sure to have one of your teachers proofread it as well.
5. **Inside tip.** Make a table of contents for the application, forms, transcripts, and such. Have each page numbered, centered on the bottom of the page, with your name on each page in the upper right-hand corner (as a header).

Being rewarded for your hard work by winning a scholarship is well worth the effort it takes in applying for one. Go for it!

YourSpace

Welcome to YourSpace, a new feature for Academy members who have a question, idea, or point of interest to share with the neonatal nursing community. All responses and suggestions will be read and considered for publication in the next issue.

This issue we will kick off YourSpace with a question regarding sleep positioning. What position(s) do you place babies in your care to sleep (prone, supine, or side), and what is your rationale for this positioning? We'd love to hear from you! Send your replies to sjbrott@neonatalnetwork.com. Names will not be published if requested.

Academy News Briefs... News Worth Knowing

- Reports published this May from Save the Children 2006 State of the World's Mother Report came out with more bad news for the U.S. health care system. Compared with 33 industrialized nations, the U.S. infant mortality rate (IMR—the number of deaths aged under 1 year per 1,000 live births) is one of the highest at 5 deaths per 1,000 live births. Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia are on par with the U.S.; Sweden, and Japan had the lowest IMR, followed by Denmark and Finland.
- The "Back to Sleep" campaign continues. The American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on SIDS strongly encourages the supine sleeping position for all babies, particularly those at risk for SIDS. The task force believes neonatologists, neonatal nurses, and others responsible for the discharge of NICU patients

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should be "more vigilant about endorsing the supine sleep position as soon as possible after birth." For the complete story, go to the AAP Policy Statement Task Force on SIDS, Vol. 116, No. 5, November, 2005, pp. 1245-1255, at pediatrics.org. (<http://pediatrics.aapublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/116/5/1245?>)

There is continuing strong evidence that pacifier sucking during the first year of life consistently reduces the incidence of SIDS. For the latest study, read "Should Pacifiers Be Recommended to Prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome?" You can find this article at [pediatrics.org](http://pediatrics.aapublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/117/5/1755?). (<http://pediatrics.aapublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/117/5/1755?>)

Join These Academy Members in Las Vegas!

These lucky Academy members from the Dallas/Fort Worth area will attend the 6th National Neonatal Nurses

Meeting. NICU Clinical Manager Ginny Dillard, RNC, BSN (see below), organizes this annual trip for her staff. We encourage you and your colleagues to join them at this year's All Star meeting in Las Vegas. See the complete program brochure in this issue.



(L to R, Melissa Poynter, RN, Cameron Carlin, RN, Susan S. White, RN, BSN, Ginny Dillard, RNC, BSN, Janice Rinehart, RNC, and Denise Zimmerman, RNC, Baylor Regional Medical Center NICU, Grapevine, Texas)

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.

