

# News of The Academy of Neonatal Nursing

Shirley J. Brott, RN, BSN, MEd  
Editor

## Meet ANN'S ALL STARS!

The Academy of Neonatal Nursing is proud to announce the winners of our first Excellence in Neonatal Nursing Practice Award. Many nurses from around the country were nominated for demonstrating a strong commitment to their patients and for showing creativity, intelligence, perseverance, and unbending will to do their best. This year's co-recipients are Luzviminda C. Jusayan, RN, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Amy Nagorski Johnson, DNSc, RNC, of Newark, Delaware.

Luz Jusayan was nominated by Jan Thape, RNC, MSN. "Luz has been a nurse for over 25 years and exemplifies excellence as a neonatal nurse. She is what I consider a 'complete' neonatal nurse. Not only are her neonatal nursing skills outstanding, she is a patient/family advocate, role model for our colleagues, and...a preceptor and mentor for our staff."

Dr. Amy Nagorski Johnson was nominated by Shelia Cushing, MSN, RN. "Amy has received numerous awards for teaching excellence and is known for her passion, teaching nursing, particularly neonatal nursing, to young college students... With approximately 40 percent of our nursing staff in the NICU former students of Amy's, her passion for practice has obviously rubbed off!" The corecipients will be presented with the award at the Academy's 2006 National Neonatal Nurses Meeting in Las Vegas. Luz and Amy will each receive \$500.00, airfare, hotel accommodations, and conference registration fee for the meeting. The nurses who nominated our winners, Jan Thape and Shelia Cushing

will each receive tuition to the meeting. Congratulations to all these exceptional nurses!

ANN wishes to acknowledge the following outstanding nurses who were also nominated: Cheryl Briggs, RN, Rachel Joseph, RN, MSN, CCRN, MA, Elizabeth Romano, RNC, Rachelle Sey, RN, BSN, and Sara Smith, RN.

Congratulations also to the recipients of the 2006 Academy of Neonatal Nursing Conference Scholarship Award, Carolyn Terry, RNC, BSN, of Stoughton, Wisconsin, and Nadine M. Schuniak, RNC, of Annandale, Virginia. The ANN Conference Scholarship Award recognizes motivated ANN members by providing them with a scholarship award to attend the annual National Neonatal Nurses Meetings. Carolyn has 14 years of NICU experience and is currently employed at the Meriter Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. She developed a method of sharing new information from conferences with colleagues through a study guide. According to Carolyn, "This comprehensive module brings the latest information and evidence-based neonatal nursing knowledge to the staff and [is] used as a guide to ensure practices are current."

Nadine has 15 years of NICU experience and is currently working at Georgetown Medical Center in Washington, DC. Nadine's daughter, Erin, who is entering her junior year of nursing school at Marymount University in Northern Virginia, will accompany her mom to the conference. Nadine states, "I would love to share with my daughter Erin the socialization, the camaraderie, and the intellectual stimulation that exudes in the atmosphere of an ANN Conference."

25 Years

ACADEMY NEWS

Academy of Neonatal Nursing  
ANN  
Academy of Neonatal Nursing



Look for ANN's ALLSTARS in Las Vegas at the 2006 National Neonatal Nurses Meeting!

## Recruitment/Reimbursement Program

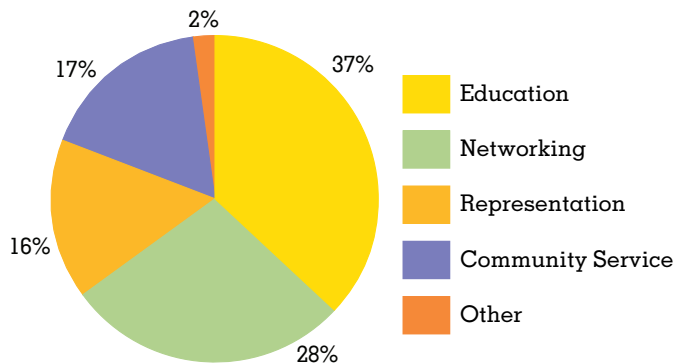
One of the many great benefits ANN offers its members is the Recruitment/Reimbursement Program. Val Wally of ANN's Membership Services gave Academy News an update of the program. "We are currently processing fifteen \$10 coupons a month. We have recently received orders for sweatshirts, radiology CDs, and conference registration. Most of the coupons are used for reduced membership dues."

Currently, our membership is around 7,500. Academy News will keep you informed of our membership numbers, especially as we get closer to the 10,000 mark!

## Chapter Survey Results

Thank you to the 20 percent of ANN members who participated in the Chapter Survey. Eighty-three percent were interested in joining a local Academy chapter, and 46 percent were willing to volunteer in its formation. Suggestions for chapter benefits are detailed below. The Advisory Board will consider your valuable responses and suggestions in determining the next course of local Academy chapter development.

### Suggestions for Chapter Benefits



## Neonatal Nurses Day is September 15!

Ways to celebrate Neonatal Nurses Day:

- Eat out. No cooking!
- Thank your preceptor for helping you survive orientation, even if it was years ago.
- Recruit a member or two. (Don't forget to get reimbursed!)

- Play a round of golf with your neonatal colleagues.
- Bring some goodies in for the break room.
- Wear your ANN pin and/or sweatshirt.
- Send a photo of how you celebrated Neonatal Nurses Day to [sjbrott@neonatalnetwork.com](mailto:sjbrott@neonatalnetwork.com).

## Curriculum Vitae: Course of Life

Did you know "curriculum vitae" or CV is Latin for "course of life"? The CV (a longer, more comprehensive document than the resume) generally includes a listing of professional history, employment, academic credentials, publications, awards, significant achievements, professional memberships, CEUs, and conferences attended. In the U.S., photos are not required, but may be requested. Here are a few tips for a CV makeover:

1. Make sure your address, phone number, and e-mail address are current.
2. Include your RN license number and where you are eligible to practice.
3. Place significant achievements, such as scholarships and awards, on the first page so they are not overlooked.
4. Number the pages.

As you journey through your course of life, it is a good idea to update your CV. You will be glad you did!

## ANN's Executive Board CV Update

Academy News asked each of our executive committee members, Virginia McCann, Debbie Fraser Askin, Pat Johnson, and Joanne Ridky, to share with ANN their updated CVs. For this issue, Academy News had the privilege to talk with Virginia McCann about her CV and her work in the NICU.

Virginia "Ginny" McCann, RNC, MSM, MA, has been on the executive committee of ANN since 2002. She currently is working on her master of science in the Nursing/Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program at the State University of New York, Stony Brook. Last year she completed her master of arts in adult education at the University of Rhode Island, where she developed a survey tool for benchmarking staff nurse preceptorships in the NICU. She received her master's of science in management from Lesley University, her BSN from Rhode Island College, and her RN diploma from the Washington Hospital Center School of Nursing in Washington, DC.

Ginny is currently the nurse educator for the Women's and Infant's Hospital 60-bed NICU in Providence, Rhode

Island, where she is responsible for the orientation of new NICU nurses. At our interview, Ginny stressed the vital importance of the staff nurses and preceptors. "Without these dedicated nurses, everything would stop. Preceptors teach so much more than what they are expected to teach. They share how to survive unspoken rules and who the players are. Preceptors are an incredible resource for all nurses on the unit. NICU staff nurses and preceptors deserve tremendous accolades for their dedication to quality neonatal care."

Ginny McCann, a true pioneer in neonatal nursing, draws on her 32 years of neonatal nursing experience for her unit and for you, our ANN members.

### Academy News Briefs

- The National Nurse Act of 2006 (H.R. 4903) will establish an Office of the National Nurse "to involve all Americans in the preventative health practices, complement health services already in place, establish volunteer national nurse teams to deliver educational programs on healthy living and give the nursing profession the national attention it needs to solve the current nursing shortage." To read the bill in its entirety, visit [http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c109:H.R.4903.IH.:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c109:H.R.4903.IH.)
- Reports from Australia published in the June issue of *Pediatrics* conclude breast milk intake is associated with "reduced neonatal abstinence syndrome severity, delays the onset of neonatal abstinence syndrome and the need for pharmaceutical treatment, regardless of gestation and type of drug exposure." Yet another substantiation of

"breast is best." The complete article is in *Pediatrics*, Vol. 117, #6, June 6, 2006, pp. 1163–1169.

- Data obtained from the first large national data set on the use of medications for neonates in the NICU found the top ten medications prescribed in the NICU are: (1) ampicillin, (2) gentamicin, (3) ferrous sulfate, (4) multivitamins, (5) cefotaxime, (6) caffeine sulfate, (7) furosemide, (8) vancomycin and \_\_\_\_\_. Do you know the other two, top ten meds? Send your responses to [sjbrott@neonatalnetwork.com](mailto:sjbrott@neonatalnetwork.com). Answers and responses will be in the next issue.

### YourSpace

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

In our last issue we asked in what position(s) you place babies in your care to sleep and the rationale for this positioning. According to the AAP and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, "When babies are weaned to open cribs, they should be positioned exclusively on their backs unless there is a clear medical reason to be in the prone position. The goal is to ensure back sleeping well before discharge. Identifying a particular weight or gestational age... for back sleeping may encourage staff to remember this transition." How does your unit determine the back sleeping transition? Please send your responses to [sjbrott@neonatalnetwork.com](mailto:sjbrott@neonatalnetwork.com). Names will not be published if requested.



## 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 toward an Academy sweatshirt, books published by NICU Ink Books, your conference tuition, or your membership dues for next year! You may earn an unlimited number of coupons. Each new member recruited cannot have been a member of The Academy during the past 24 months. Fill out the form below and send it with membership applications of the nurses you've recruited. You will receive your \$10 coupons in the mail. If you have any questions, please call the Academy at 707-568-2168.

Please Print All Information

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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 to:

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

