

News of The Academy of Neonatal Nursing

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Editor

The 2006 National Neonatal Nurses Meeting at the Las Vegas Hilton Was a Smash Hit!

"The conference was topnotch and well-rehearsed," says Ginny McCann, Nurse Educator at Women's and Infants Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. "I always judge a conference on what new 'pearls' (of wisdom) I have taken away and this year there were many. I was most impressed with Dr. Susan Ludington's research regarding quiet sleep fostering brain development through the use of Kangaroo Care." Jay Goldsmith's lecture on oxygen targeting and improvement in respiratory care was also center stage for many attendees including Jody Ridky, RN, of Clarksville, Maryland, "Imagine significantly decreasing ROP and CLD by changes in practice!" (For more information on these subjects, go to "Neurophysiologic Assessment of Neonatal Sleep Organization: Preliminary Results of a Randomized, Controlled Trial of Skin Contact With Preterm Infants" in *Pediatrics* 117(5): 909-923, and "What is on the Horizon for Neonatal Resuscitation?" *NeoReviews*, 2001, E51-57.)

Major medical centers and schools such as Duke University, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and Children's Hospitals from around the country were represented along with top neonatal and perinatal medical services and supplies at the exhibitor's hall. From DR warming blankets to SIDS parent information to MRI transport units, this year's exhibits definitely kept the attendees busy at breaks. (See "What's New?")

Many thanks to our outstanding conference chairpersons Deb Askin, Sherri Lee Simons, and Alice Chernich, and a standing ovation goes to the crew behind the scenes, Neonatal Network's conference coordinator, Barb Mansinne; office manager, Marti Alvarado; and editorial coordinator Ute Berman; volunteers Amy Hemley, Cindy Copenbargar, Rebecca LaFevre, Melissa Rutka, and Laura Hammond. Some pictures can be seen on the next page.

Have you made plans yet to attend the 4th National Advanced Practice Neonatal Nurses Conference in Hawaii at the Sheraton Waikiki, April 18-21, 2007? Need we say more except to register early as space is limited?

ANN's Executive Committee CV Update

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

Debbie "Deb" Fraser Askin, RNC, MN, received her BSN and NNP/MSN from the University of Manitoba. She is a charter board member of ANN and has been the Executive Editor for *Neonatal Network* since 2003. Currently Deb is on the faculty as associate professor at the University of Manitoba and the University of Toronto and has been practicing since 1989 as an NNP in the 30-bed NICU at St. Boniface General Hospital. Deb is the recipient of numerous research and grant awards, and is an invited speaker at many neonatal conferences around

25 Years

ACADEMY NEWS





Executive Committee at work. Virginia McCann, RNC, MS; Joanne Ridky, RN, MA; Pat Johnson, RN, MS, NNP; Charles Rait, RN, PNC, MSEd; not pictured, Debbie Fraser Askin, RNC, MN.

North America. In 2005, she was honored by the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba with the Excellence in Education award.

Deb has written over 35 articles in esteemed journals such as *Neonatal Network*, *Mother Baby Journal*, *JOGNN*, *The Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*, and *Pediatrics and Child Health*. Deb's *Infection in the Neonate* book won the 2004 *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year Award. Her writing is included in over 20 texts, many of which are currently in use, such as Lippincott's *Perinatal Nursing*.

Currently, Deb is working with her research partner, William L. Diehl-Jones on breast milk additives for preterm infants. Their latest article can be found in *Newborn and Infant Nursing Reviews* 5(1): 10-18. In terms of nursing practice on the unit, Deb feels evidence-based care "encourages us to look closer at how we provide care and what is the best way to treat the baby." She feels this generation has a "new kind of parent" who, because of the Internet, for example, is much better informed and educated than past generations.

In addition to her work in the hospital and classroom, Deb makes time for her family, gardening, and marathon running. She has participated in several "full" (26 mile) marathons and looks forward to more. The Academy of Neonatal Nursing is proud and privileged to have Debbie Fraser Askin, nurse, author, teacher, and marathon runner on its board.

Academy News Briefs

- In the September/October issue, we listed eight of the top ten medications prescribed in the NICU according to data obtained from the first large national data set.



Excellence in Practice winners: Luzviminda C. Jusayan, RN and Amy Nagorski Johnson, DNSc, RNC

The eight meds listed were: 1) ampicillin 2) gentamicin 3) ferrous sulfate 4) multivitamins 5) cefotaxime 6) caffeine sulfate 7) furosemide and 8) vancomycin. Kathy Robinson, RN, from the Medical Center of Lewisville, Texas responded with the 2 "Top 10" missing medications in the NICU, metoclopramide and surfactant. Other responses included Prevacid.

- According to RN magazine (August 2006), the National Council of State Boards of Nursing is revising a proposal to change the way advanced practice nurses are credentialed by excluding clinical nurse specialists. Critical feedback on the draft proposal came from the American College of Nursing, the ANA, and the American Nurses Credentialing Center, among others.
- Now Available! Emerging Issues in Near-Term Infant Care: AWHONN Prematurity Update, a CD-ROM resource which introduces near-term (babies born between 34 and 36 weeks) as an emerging and challenging issue for all newborn health care providers. These populations, though treated like full-term newborns, are at risk for the same problems premature newborns experience, including hyperbilirubinemia, respiratory distress syndrome, feeding problems, and potential neurodevelopmental delays. Go to awhonn.org for more information on the CD. Further updated information can be also found at *Pediatrics*, 2006, 118(3): 1207-1214, "Optimizing Care and Outcome for the Late Pre-term (Near-term) Infant: A Summary of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development."



From left to right: Marlene Burkholder, BSN, RN; Judy Bowles, RNC; LuAnne Johnson, BSN, RN; Jane Lamp, MS, RNC, CNS; Tammy Wallace, MS, RNC, NNP; Connie Garrison, MSN, RNC, CNA, BC, Director of Women's Health.

In the Works

"If words like 'genomics' and 'proteomics' aren't rolling right off your tongue yet, they will, as research from these disciplines are coming at us like a tsunami," says Karla Damus, RN, MSPH, PhD, Senior Research Associate at the March of Dimes. Genomics is the study of the genome and the organism's use of the gene. It deals with the systemic use of genome information along with other data to provide answers to biology, medicine, and industry. Proteomics is the study of the structure and function of proteins. Novel approaches employing genomics and proteomics are now yielding clinically useful methods to predict preterm birth. ANN member Julianne Schiefelbein serves as our genomics representative and she will keep members updated. Academy News will devote more to this topic in upcoming issues.

What's New

- The MRI compatible Neonatal Imaging Sub-System-NISS-MR developed by Advanced Imaging Research is an MR compatible, self-contained incubator with respirator, infusion pumps, and battery backup for in-hospital transport. This space-age looking unit can be viewed at www.adving.com.
- The INOVS System from Somanetics Corporation is the first and only patient monitoring system available in the U.S. that noninvasively and continuously monitors changes in regional oxygen saturation in the brain



Poster title: We're Delivering, Who's Responding? Assuring Safety When Distance Separates Units. Poster Presenters (from left to right): Tammy Wallace, MS, RNC, NNP, and Judy Bowles, RNC

through low-intensity and near-infrared light via sensors which are placed on the forehead. For more information, go to www.somanetics.com.

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 and suggestions will be read and considered for publication.

Some hospitals are offering patients the ability to view their chart and lab and test results through programs such as MyChart. One reader wrote to ask if many NICUs have this service available on their unit, and how nurses cope with parents accessing the neonate's chart through Internet access. Send your replies to: sjbrott@neonatalnetwork.com. Thanks for your responses! Keep them coming!



Courtesy of B. Rait.