

# News of The Academy of Neonatal Nursing

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Editor

## Announcing e-News for ANN Members: Get Connected!

Did you receive the premiere issue of *Academy Connection* in your e-mail inbox? With just a click of a mouse, ANN members can now stay up to date on hot nursing topics and educational opportunities. Membership renewals and recruitment reimbursements couldn't be easier or faster. Designed to keep members current without crowding your mailbox or your time, *Academy Connection* is easy to navigate, interesting, and helpful.

If you did not receive *Academy Connection* or wish to be on our mailing list, please visit [academyonline.org](http://academyonline.org), click on "Contact Us" and send us your e-mail address. (The Academy respects the privacy of its members, we do not share, sell, or rent your e-mail address.)

## Smallest of Patients, Best of Care: The 7th National Neonatal Nurses Meeting

The Academy of Neonatal Nursing and *Neonatal Network*® invite all neonatal health care professionals to Las Vegas for the 7th National Neonatal Nurses Meeting September 5-8, 2007. New and intriguing topics will be offered, including "Creation of a Palliative Care Program for Neonates" presented by Anita Catlin, DNSc, FNP, FAAN. Dr. Catlin is a nurse researcher and associate professor of nursing at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park,

California. Her specialty is perinatal ethics, and her current research is conscientious objection in nursing. Take a look at her work and CV by going to [www.sonoma.edu/users/c/catlin](http://www.sonoma.edu/users/c/catlin). From this site, you can contribute to her latest research study.

Your evenings in Las Vegas are free, so there is plenty of time to enjoy a show or two! ANN found a great site for Las Vegas events and entertainment tips. Go to [www.vegas.com](http://www.vegas.com), click on "Shows," then "See All Shows." For tips, scroll down to "Shows by Category" and click on "Entertainment Tips."

Register for the 7th National Neonatal Nurses Meeting online by going to [neonatalnetwork.com](http://neonatalnetwork.com); then scroll down and click on "7th National Neonatal Nurses Meeting." Click again on "Online Meeting Registration." Join ANN with registration before July 15, 2007, and save almost \$75. ANN members always save at least \$50!

*Neonatal Network*® and The Academy of Neonatal Nurses look forward to getting together with other neonatal health care providers for a few days of enlightenment and entertainment. See you in Vegas!

## Membership Update and NICU Ink

As of this printing, ANN's membership is 7,940—only 60 members to 8,000! One of the many benefits of joining ANN is discounts on NICU Ink books. From Fanaroff, Martin, and Walsh's 8th edition textbook *Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine*, to poems by neonatal nurse Nancy Kennedy, *Baby Hands & Baby Feet: Poems and Drawings from the Nursery*, NICU Ink has a book for you.



New from NICU Ink is *Neonatal Surgical Procedures: A Guide for Care and Management* edited by Diane Longobucco, RNC, MSN, APRN, NNP, and Valerie Ruth, RN, MS, NNP. This important text is a must for both the novice and expert neonatal nurse. The price for this book is \$50.00 for members, \$59.95 for nonmembers. Enjoy the variety and depth of material offered by NICU Ink by going to [www.neonatalnetwork.com/nicuink](http://www.neonatalnetwork.com/nicuink).

## ANN's Going Global

The Academy of Neonatal Nurses has partnered with 99nicu, one of the most useful Internet communities in the world. Designed for health care professionals in neonatal medicine and nursing, 99nicu is a fantastic knowledge resource that allows members from all time zones to communicate ideas, share experiences, and ask questions. The virtual community site was started in May 2006 by the neonatal staff affiliated with Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden, and was founded by Stefan Johansson, MD. In a recent telephone interview with Dr. Johansson, ANN asked what 99nicu means. "99nicu means 99 percent of the discussion forums are neonatal oriented, and the remainder is an informal meeting place open to any discussion." Membership is free, and until June 30, 2007, members receive full text access to *Neonatology*. 99nicu will also be hosting free Virtual Grand Rounds later this year. Take a look now at the discussion forums by going to [www.99nicu.org/forum](http://www.99nicu.org/forum); then sign up and be connected with the world of neonatology.

Is your hospital a member of the Vermont Oxford Network (VON)? Established in 1988, VON is a nonprofit voluntary collaboration of health care professionals dedicated to improving the quality and safety of health care for neonates and their families. Today there are over 550 NICU members from 23 countries participating. VON maintains one of the world's largest NICU databases through the Nightingale Internet Reporting System, which is an online reporting system to help participating hospitals analyze and compare data. To promote evidence-based practice in neonatal care, VON's Clinical Trial Division conducts clinical trials on such areas as Delivery Room Management, Early Surfactant Replacement, Heat Loss Prevention (HeLP), the Neonatal Skin Care Study, and the Neonatal Encephalopathy Study. To determine if your NICU is a Vermont Oxford Network member, go to [vtoxford.org](http://vtoxford.org), then click on "About Us" then "Members List."

ANN has partnered with the Council of International

Neonatal Nurses (COINN), an organization represented by regional networks from over 40 countries, to help a nurse attend an international nursing conference. Like currency, COINN's goal is exchange and sharing of information. Other major partners include the World Health Organization and The International Council of Nurses. Help ANN send a neonatal nurse from a third world country to the 6th International Neonatal Nursing Conference, September 15–18, 2007, in New Delhi, India. To donate to this very worthy cause, please see next page. For more information about the 6th International Neonatal Nursing Conference, go to [www.icnn2007.com](http://www.icnn2007.com).

## ANN Members with Heart



If you are reading this journal, you are a neonatal professional who cares. ANN would like to share the CV or "course of life" of individuals who have taken the art of nursing into the future. In this issue we introduce **Jill D. Duncan, RN, MSN, MPH.**

Jill is the clinical nurse specialist for the 75-bed Level IV NICU at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children (IFHC) in Falls Church, Virginia. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Virginia Nurses Association Centennial Nurse Award for her contributions to nursing education and leadership, and the Nurse Visionary of the Year Award from IFHC. In addition to being the advanced practice resource and mentor to the staff, she is the facilitator for the IFHC NICU collaboration with the VON Evidence-Based Quality Improvement Initiatives.

Most recently, Jill has been the driving force behind the development of the NICU Critical Decision Simulation, the nursing training tool of the not-too-distant future (see "In the Works").

When asked what she likes most about her job, Jill responded, "My job is the best of many worlds—working alongside the NICU staff and caring for patients and families. I couldn't do my job without the wonderful multidisciplinary team I am a part of in the NICU." Jill spends her spare time with her husband, Jason, enjoying outdoor activities. Jill and Jason are currently in training for the Chicago Marathon in October, 2007. A Minnesota native, Jill tries to find time to visit there as often as possible.

If you would like to share your CV with ANN and be featured in **ANN Members with Heart**, please contact Shirley Brott at [editor@academyonline.org](mailto:editor@academyonline.org). This is a great way to communicate new ideas from your unit!

## In the Works

The gaming company Rival Interactive LLC has partnered with Inova Fairfax Hospital (IFHC) in Falls Church, Virginia to bring you the latest in neonatal training modalities. The NICU Critical Decision Simulation, a high-end 3-D graphics gaming program, is easy to use and exposes new NICU nurses to clinical situations without potential harm to the actual patient. Much like a flight simulator used for pilots, the training tool allows nurses to "care for" a neonate in various critical situations using a visual gaming device. In an interview with *Nursing Spectrum*, Jill Duncan, RN, MSN, MPH, ANN member, and clinical content expert for the NICU Critical Decision Simulation, described how the tool works. "The baby responds based on [decisions of the nurse trainee]. If the selection is wrong, the baby will start to deteriorate, and the system will stop and ask the nurse to rethink [her] decision for immediate feedback."

ANN caught up with the owner of Rival Interactive, Jim Omer this spring to find out what the next step is in this great new training tool. "We will have a full system prototype by June, which will train, track, and allow for auditing." The audit can then be used for further training and educational opportunities. To learn more about this new technology, go to <http://community.nursingspectrum.com/MagazineArticles/article.cfm?AID=22914>. You will be amazed!

## For Your Calendar

- Cover the Uninsured Week is May 1–7. Nurses are encouraged to participate in the quest to solve the problem of the uninsured because nurses see first-hand the consequences of a lack of health insurance. For more information, go to <http://CovertheUninsuredWeek.org>.
- Every year, nurses celebrate National Nurses Week, which starts on May 6 and ends on Florence Nightingale's birthday, May 12. Take advantage of this week to celebrate by writing a thank-you card to a nurse. This small gesture will be greatly appreciated!
- How about trying those Crocs everyone is wearing and talking about? You can easily order online by going to [crocs.com](http://crocs.com). Be sure to select the professional Crocs because they are designed for nurses and are antimicrobial, slip resistant, and odor resistant.
- PremieCon 2007, the first conference for preemie parents and professionals, will be held in Washington, DC, August 23–25, 2007. Be a part of this special event where "we will come together to learn more about the

preemie experience, share stories, and find out how we can all work together to strengthen the preemie community." For more information, go to [www.preemie-magazine.com](http://www.preemie-magazine.com).

- In October 2007, the Council of Science Editors is organizing a Global Theme Issue on Poverty and Human Development. *Neonatal Network*,<sup>®</sup> *JAMA*, and *JOGNN* are among the journals participating. *Neonatal Network*<sup>®</sup> is accepting articles or opinions on this subject to be published in the September/October, 2007 issue. Go to [www.neonatalnetwork.com](http://www.neonatalnetwork.com), click on "Council website" for a complete listing of the participating journals, and e-mail Debbie Frasier Askin to submit an article or opinion.

## 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.

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a Level I, II, III, IV, and V NICU? Who sets the criteria and is it standardized? Let us know how your unit level was determined. Send your replies to [editor@academyonline.org](mailto:editor@academyonline.org).

**Help the Academy of Neonatal Nursing and the Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN) send a deserving nurse from a developing country to the 6th International Neonatal Nursing Conference being held in New Delhi, India—September 15–18, 2007.**

**Visit <http://www.icnn2007.com> for conference details.**

**Donations can be made by check payable to the Council of International Neonatal Nurses and sent to:**

**The Academy of Neonatal Nursing  
2270 Northpoint Parkway  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407**