

News of The Academy of Neonatal Nursing

Shirley J. Brott, RN, BSN, MEd
Editor

Hawaii Was the Place to be for Advanced Practice Neonatal Nurses in April

Surrounded by warm Hawaiian trade winds, friends and colleagues enjoyed the best in advanced practice neonatal education at the 4th National Advanced Practice Neonatal Nurses Conference held in the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu. Conference chairpersons, Debbie Fraser Askin, RNC, MN, Rosanne Harrigan, EdD, CPNP, APRN, FAAN, and Sherri Lee Simons, RNC, MSN, CCRN, assembled quality speakers with fresh ideas for participants to share with their students and NICUs.

Some Conference Highlights:

- Jatinder Bhatia, MD, opened the conference with "Basing Practice on Myth or Reality." Dr. Bhatia, after defining evidence based practice, highlighted current practice examples such as the initiation of trophic feedings, oxygen saturation and retinopathy of prematurity, and using midazolam for sedation.
- Tracy Karp, RNC, MS, NNP, discussed apnea in the NICU infant; highlighting apnea of prematurity. He delved into the controversies surrounding both the detection and treatment as well as providing pertinent studies to support one therapy or another.
- Lu-Ann Papile, MD, Medical Director of the NICU at The University of New Mexico Children's Hospital, provided updates regarding the latest in hypothermia in the management of hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy.

- Concurrent sessions took place in the late morning. Some of these topics included: neonatal screening, NEC, free radicals, surfactant, EKG interpretation, applications and controversies of NO, and diagnostic dilemmas.
- Sixteen posters were accepted for presentation at this conference. A link is provided to this content on the Academy website (academyonline.org). A small number of the topics are illustrated here.
- "Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa: Use of Donor Milk in the NICU," a very successful program established five years ago in the 56-bed NICU at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa. Poster author Joan Hengst, RNC, MSN, NNP, ARNP, in an interview after the conference, relayed the



importance of having banked breast milk accessible and available for newborns and infants. "Some centers charge as much as \$15 per ounce. The University of Iowa receives support and grants for the breast milk program so the milk is freely available. We receive donated milk from as far as Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Missouri from multiple drop-off points, such as physician offices."

- "Special Preemie Oxygen Targeting (SPOT)" looked at the algorithm used to monitor oxygen levels for infants less than 32 weeks gestational age. In a recent telephone interview, Tonya Oliver, RNC, MSN, NNP, explained that the NICU of Brenner Children's Hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, a member of the Vermont Oxford Network, has seen significant improvement in the numbers of infants with Grade 3 and 4 ROP since the initiation of the SPOT program.
- "Sleep and Growth in Preterm Infants," by Valerie Ruth, RN, PhD, NNP, described a longitudinal study to correlate sleep and growth, which may change the way premature neonates receive therapies and treatments. Data from video sleep scoring and continuous actigraphy (a device which measures activity) and daily weight is used to compare and validate findings. This important work is being supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health and the Betty Irene Moore Foundation. In a telephone interview, Dr. Ruth shared her latest sleep study regarding heart rate and growth. "We expected a high heart rate to possibly diminish growth rate in preemies. Surprisingly, at this point of the research project, this has not been the case, perhaps due to the sympathetic/parasympathetic system response. This study is still in its early stage, but the results so far are intriguing." Dr. Valerie Ruth recently received her doctorate in nursing research and is currently practicing at the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital of the Stanford University Medical Center in California.

Register Now for the 7th National Neonatal Nurses Meeting in Las Vegas

Group Discounts Now Available!

It's not too late to make plans to attend "The Smallest of Patients: The Best of Care," the 7th National Neonatal Nurses Meeting, September 5-8, 2007, in Las Vegas,

Nevada. Dana Lunde MSN, RNC, CNNP, will join Deb Askin and Sherri Lee Simons in chairing this meeting.

A few examples of the over 45 different topics include "Deposition Strategy: Level the Playing Field" presented by Janie Waggoner Pageau, RN, NNP. This lively, interactive session is designed to inform RNs and NNPs of the customary elements inherent in the deposition process, covert tactics within the lines of questioning, and effective counterstrategies. Short- and long-term effects of pain are discussed by Sandra Gardner, RN, MS, CNS, PNP, as well as the ethical and legal obligations to relieve pain. In her session, "Neonatal Pain and Pain Relief: A Nursing Perspective," Ms. Gardner will discuss causes of pain in neonates; myths surrounding pain and pain relief; and the behavioral, physiologic, and hormonal aspects of pain as they relate to the neonate.

You can register for the 7th National Neonatal Nurses Meeting online by going to academyonline.org or neonatalnetwork.com or by using the registration form in the brochure in this issue. Register by July 15, 2007, and save up to \$50: If you are not an Academy member yet, become one and save \$25 on your registration. Then save even more: Plan your trip to Las Vegas with at least three of your friends and get another \$25 off of meeting tuition, more friends?? \$30 off each tuition for groups of more than four. See you there!

Please Mark Your Calendar!

Save This Date!

Friday, September 7, 2007, 12:30 to 1:00 PM

The Academy Membership Meeting will take place during the seated lunch provided by *Neonatal Network*.® Our new executive director, Debbie Fraser Askin, will answer your questions and let you know about the increase in benefits coming your way. If you cannot come to the meeting, please tell us what you feel are the top three benefits of Academy membership for you and three CE topics you would most like to see offered in the journal, at a conference, or in another CE format. Please email your lists to memberinfo@academyonline.org. Thank You!

Academy News Briefs

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the Olympic Neonatal Cool Cap for the treatment of hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy. As a condition of the approval, Olympic Medical Corporation agreed to set up a patient registry to collect information on device usage and to track treatment outcomes. This will be done through the Vermont Oxford Network HIE program

registry. Olympic also agreed to organize a training and certification process for all operators of the device.

- e-Preemie eNews (preemiemagazine.com) in May, wrote about a study that was reported by Dr. Paul Winchester, at the May 7, 2007, Pediatric Academic Societies' (PAS) annual meeting. The study was conducted at the Indiana School of Medicine between 1996 and 2002. These researchers studied more than 27 million live births in the United States and found premature birth rates could be associated with increased use of pesticides and nitrates. The U.S. Geological Survey found pesticide and nitrate levels in surface water were highest in May/June and lowest August/September. This coincides with the premature birth rates being higher in May/June and lowest in August/September. Information on this study can be obtained at the Indiana University School of Medicine website (www.medicine.indiana.edu/news_releases). On the left side of the page find the news release from May 7, 2007.
- On February 1, 2007, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) published a news release encouraging OB-GYN physicians, health care professionals, hospitals and employers to increase support of exclusive breastfeeding for at least the first six months of life. The group emphasized that education and support for breastfeeding can improve breastfeeding rates and would be a positive economic investment for health plans and employers because there are lower rates of illness among infants who are breastfed. www.acog.org/from_home/publications/press_releases/nr02-01-07-1.cfm

- Are you up to date on immunization recommendations? The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices "recommends premature infants, regardless of birth weight, be vaccinated at the same chronological age and according to the same schedule as full-term infants. The recommended dose of each vaccine should be used and divided or reduced doses are not recommended." The following website contains the original printed recommendations. Please be aware that two corrections were made to this article and you can find those links at the top of the page. www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5515.pdf. In May 2007, the The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published notification of their endorsement of these recommendations. The AAP link for immunization information is: www.cispimmunize.org

YourSpace

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

In our last issue, we asked about the differences between Level I, II, III, IV and V NICUs. The *Guidelines for Perinatal Care*, 5th edition, published in 2002, by AAP and ACOG states that there are three levels of neonatal care: basic, specialty, and subspecialty. In 2004, the AAP published a policy statement, "Levels of Neonatal Care." They proposed uniform definitions of the three levels of care, dividing Level III care into sublevels of A, B, and C. While there are not Level IV and V NICUs designated, there are components of Level III that address specific capabilities. The policy statement was published in *Pediatrics*, November, 2004, 114(5), 1341-1347.

Some NICUs have designated themselves Level IV and V because their centers offer ECMO and other advanced capabilities. This continues to confuse the matter because at this time there are not "accepted levels" beyond Level III with its various sublevels.

The American Academy of Pediatrics often makes revisions to policy statements every five years. The current designations were published in November 2004. A new edition of the *Guidelines for Perinatal Care* will be published in Fall 2007. Do you feel there is a need for additional NICU levels because of the increasing numbers and variations of Level III NICUs in the United States? What is your vision of a Level IV or Level V NICU? Send your ideas to sjbrott@neonatalnetwork.com. We'd love to hear from you!



Hawaii conference attendees from the U.K., l to r, Linda Jackson, Sue Arnell, Michelle Wilcoxon, and Katherine Franklin.