

News of The Academy of Neonatal Nursing

Shirley J. Brott, RN, BSN, MEd
Editor

2007 Winners of the Academy of Neonatal Nursing Academic and Conference Scholarship Awards

This year's \$1,000 Academic Scholarship Award goes to Carolyn Terry, RNC, BSN. Carolyn is attending State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she plans to complete her master of science degree and the neonatal nurse practitioner program in June of 2008. Lori A. Escallier, PhD, RN, CPNP, clinical associate professor at Stony Brook, wrote, "Ms. Terry's academic ability has proven outstanding. She is a leader among her colleagues and is an example of the epitome of nursing. She is industriously conscientious of the ever-changing health care environment and leads through example."

The Academy office recently received this correspondence from Carolyn: "I would like to express my gratitude for the scholarship awarded by the Academy of Neonatal Nursing. I have dreamt of pursuing an advanced degree in nursing and applying that degree in a neonatal intensive care setting. The scholarship awarded will help make that dream a reality. Without scholarship patrons like you, there would be many students unable to pursue their educational goals. My future plans include providing developmentally supportive care to fragile neonates and their families, advancement of evidence-based nursing practice through research, and educating the next generation of nursing professionals. Once again, I offer my sincerest thanks for the 2007 Academy of Neonatal Nursing [Academic] Scholarship Award."

Barbara Buster, RNC, is the winner of the Academy Conference Scholarship Award. Barbara is one of the day supervisors at the Oklahoma University Medical Center 86-bed NICU in Oklahoma City. With an average daily census of between 65 and 72, Barbara spends her 12-hour shift supervising the staff and assisting new nurses. With three teenage boys at home, Barbara is one busy lady! The National Neonatal Nurses Meeting in Las Vegas will be her first conference, and she very much looks forward to attending.

Congratulations and best wishes to these outstanding Academy members!

The March of Dimes Announces Gain in Newborn Screening in the U.S.

According to the latest (July 11, 2007) March of Dimes (MOD) Newborn Screening Report Card, now nearly 90 percent (up from 38 percent in 2005) of all babies born in the U.S. live in states that require screening for at least 21 life-threatening disorders. Through a survey conducted by the National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center, the MOD found that only 13 states and the District of Columbia require the full screening panel for 29 genetic or functional disorders, as recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics and endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. If not mandated, this simple, lifesaving heelstick blood test will be done only if the family wants or can pay the additional expense. "While this important expansion

of newborn screening is very good news for families, the lives of 500,000 newborns who still aren't tested hang in the balance," said Dr. Jennifer L. Howse, president of the March of Dimes. Failure to catch these disorders early can result in brain damage or even death.

The MOD encourages all clinicians to help endorse requiring the 29-panel screening in all 50 states. A frequently updated list of the screening tests required by each state can be found at www.marchofdimes.com/peristats.

The Worldwide Membership of ANN

Academy members from Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Denmark, England, Iceland, Ireland, India, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the U.S. are dedicated neonatal nurses committed to the worldwide sharing of information to strengthen the health of newborns. Academy members can now gain access to *Neonatal Network*[®], and complete courses online with immediate examination results from anywhere there is Internet access. Through "Academy Connection," the official eNewsletter of the Academy of Neonatal Nursing, members are instantly linked to current issues and hot topics. ANN's global partner, 99nicu.org, offers ANN members free access to a user-friendly neonatal web community to pose questions, address concerns, bring issues to the screen, tune into video conferencing, or simply lounge and share photos.

Encourage your national and international colleagues to join the worldwide membership of ANN and get connected with the latest in neonatal nursing education. Go to academyonline.org today and sign up! Remember, too, our "Get a Member" program rewards!

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 and science of nursing into the future. In this issue, we introduce **Mariam Folath, RN, NNP, MSN**. Miriam was first introduced to ANN through the 99nicu.org web-community.

Mariam is from the kingdom of Bahrain, and is the first and only neonatal nurse practitioner in her country. After five years as supervisor for the 25-plus-bed NICU at Salmaniya Medical Center in the capital city of Manama, Mariam saw a real need for a neonatal nurse practitioner. After researching her educational options, in 2006,



Mariam traveled halfway around the world to attend the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned her master of science in nursing and successfully completed the neonatal nurse practitioner program. Since returning to Bahrain, Mariam has initiated an evidence-based program focusing on skin care and wound and pain management. She also developed and implemented the neonatal resuscitation team (NRT). She presently is the clinical instructor for her NICU and publishes newsletters for her staff and patients. Mariam was honored in 2006 for receiving her master of science in nursing degree by the Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa.

Mariam is a true pioneer in neonatal nursing who is instrumental in bringing the best of care to newborns and their families in Bahrain.

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. This is a great way to communicate new and innovative ideas from your NICU!

About the Kingdom of Bahrain

Bahrain (from the word for "two seas") is an archipelago of 33 islands situated midway in the Persian Gulf just off the coast of the Saudi Arabian peninsula. Bahrain is surrounded by long stretches of beaches and coral reefs. The main island is 665 square miles with a population of about 670,000. The system of government is a constitutional monarchy. The capital is Manama and the head of state is His Royal Highness King Sheik Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa. The kingdom of Bahrain offers free primary and secondary health and dental care for all of its citizens.

American International Health Alliance

Located in Washington, DC, the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) seeks to improve the status of nurses in developing and transitioning nations through education. AIHA offers exchange programs, international nursing conferences, and workshops. The International Nursing Leadership Alliance, an arm of AIHA, provides a yearlong partnership with hospitals in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Central Europe to help establish leadership skills for a successful working environment. Distance learning is provided through the Internet with over 24 Nursing Resource Centers which provide books, computers, and anatomic models. For more information on the AIHA, please go to www.aiha.com. You can also visit them in Washington, DC, by calling 202-789-1277. They are located at 1225 Eye Street, Suite 100, Washington, DC, 20005.

International nursing organizations such as the Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN), the International Council of Nurses, and the American International Health Alliance are part of the ever-growing nursing globalization movement. The ultimate mission of these groups is to decrease neonatal and maternal mortality and morbidity. This month, the Academy of Neonatal Nursing, through member donations and donations from *Neonatal Network*[®], along with COINN, is sending a nurse from a developing country to attend the 6th International Neonatal Nursing Conference in New Delhi, India.

Academy News Briefs

- In a large, longitudinal study conducted in California, researchers reviewed the records of 48,237 VLBW neonates (birth weight below 1,500 gm) between 1991 and 2000 to examine the differences in mortality with levels of care (i.e., Level I, II, or III) and volume of patients. The results, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, May 24, 2007, demonstrated that "mortality among VLBW infants was lowest for deliveries that occurred in hospitals with NICUs that had both a high level of care and a high volume of such patients. The results suggest that increased use of such facilities might reduce mortality among VLBW infants."
- From Longwoods Publishing: "...nearly 84 percent of Canadians trust the information given to them from nursing organizations. Only 30 percent rated the quality of health care in Canada as 'excellent' or 'very good,' Canadians credited front-line workers for the major

responsibility of quality care." Suggestions to improve the health care system included reducing wait time, extending coverage of publicly-insured services to include long-term and mental health care, and recruitment of nurses and physicians through free university tuition.

- According to a study published in the June 14, 2007, issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, prophylactic fluconazole may reduce the incidence and colonization of *Candida* infection in preterm infants. *Candida* is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in preterm infants. The authors of the research caution, however, "Cochrane reviews do not recommend routine use (of fluconazole) because of the paucity of data regarding safety and resistance and the absence of adequately powered, multicenter trials."
- In a study led by Charlene T. Robertson, MD, researchers from the University of Alberta found "The prevalence of cerebral palsy in 2001–2003 of 19/1,000 live births for more than 3-year-old survivors of extreme prematurity is the lowest reported to date in the literature." The authors were unclear as to why the cerebral palsy rate dropped; however, they suggested it may be due to a reduction in postnatal corticosteroid use. The study is published in the June 27, 2007, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

New for Nurses!

The Continuing Education Program on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Risk Reduction is now available from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH. Although SIDS deaths have declined by 50 percent in recent years, it is still the leading cause of death in infants between one month and one year of age. Nurses are in a unique position to educate parents and infant caregivers about SIDS and ways to reduce the risk of SIDS. Developed in partnership with national nursing organizations,* this learner-directed program describes the latest research on SIDS and provides the information and tools nurses can use to communicate SIDS risk-reduction messages. Nurses who complete the program will earn 1.1 contact hours. You can order a free copy of the curriculum by visiting <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sidsnursesce/> or by calling 1-800-370-2943.

* The Academy of Neonatal Nursing took part in the development of this program. Our representative on this task force is Jeanette Zaichkin, RNC, MN.