



The Canadian Neonatal Network™

Newsletter

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CNN Steering Committee Election Results

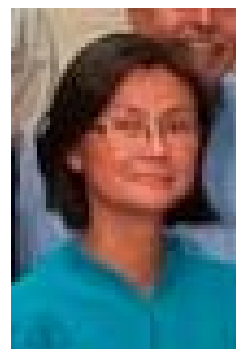
In October we held our annual **CNN Steering Committee elections**, and are pleased to announce that Drs. Prakesh Shah and Wendy Yee are the two members whom you have elected to sit on the committee. For those unfamiliar with either of them, here are short biographical sketches to help you out!

Dr. Prakesh Shah is a staff Neonatologist and Epidemiologist working at Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto. He is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Paediatrics and Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. He completed his medical training in India, postgraduate training in India and UK, followed by a fellowship in Neonatal Perinatal Medicine at University of Toronto hospitals. During the fellowship he also completed an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto and currently teaches in Clinical Epidemiology Program at the University of Toronto. He is co-representative for University of Toronto Network site of Cochrane Collaboration. His research interests are HIE, systematic reviews and review of changes in practice and their impact on outcomes in neonatology. He has been actively involved in the CNN as a steering committee member for the last 3 years, is Chair of the Database and Annual Report Committee, and has produced the last 3 Annual Reports of CNN. He is currently revamping the CNN database to take it to the



next level of collection of microdata. He believes that with implementation of the new CNN database, researchers from all over Canada will be able to utilize this rich database to produce world class research. He plans to explore nationwide trends in the practices, outcomes and resource utilization with the help of this new version. Using CNN as a medium he is also interested in encouraging active participation particularly from younger faculties and trainees and working with them to build the health services research expertise in Canada. His ultimate goal is to identify avenues to continually improve outcomes for our fragile neonates.

Dr. Wendy Yee completed a Doctor of Medicine degree (1984) from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, received Certification in Specialty of Pediatrics from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (1989) and Certification in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (1993). In 2005 she obtained a



Master of Science degree in clinical epidemiology from the University of Calgary. She currently works as a Neonatologist (Level II/III NICU, Southern Alberta Perinatal Follow-up Clinic) for Alberta Health Services in Calgary, Alberta and is an Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary in the Faculty of Medicine/Pediatrics. She served as Site Leader of Neonatology at Rockyview General Hospital from 1994 to 2004 and again from 2008 to 2009, and served as a Consultant in General Pediatrics at the Campbell Clinic in Lethbridge, Alberta. She has Chaired the Neonatal Quality Improvement Committee in the Calgary Health Region. Dr. Yee is currently a CNN Site Investigator, a member of the CNN Clinical Subcommittee, the Foothills Medical Centre (Calgary) Site Investigator on the MiCare Team Grant (Project 3), Team Lead for EPIQ2 NEC Literature Review Group, and a member of the EPIQ2 Indicator Review Committee.



New CNN Members - In Focus

Lenora Marcellus is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of Victoria. She has just recently moved over from the Vancouver Island Health Authority where she was the lead for the perinatal program development. She received her PhD at the University of Alberta; her research focused on the care of infants with NAS. Lenora is currently working on several research projects with the neonatal team at Victoria General Hospital, including: (a) implementation of a step-wise oral feeding progression with Adele Harrison, (b) early planning work looking at the effect of a pre-pregnancy/early pregnancy dental intervention on preterm birth with Adele Harrison, and (c) a project comparing the FIR Square neonatal withdrawal tool with the modified Finnegan tool with Cherrie Tan-Dy.

Bernard Thébaud is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Alberta and staff Neonatologist in the Northern Alberta Neonatal Program since 2002. Dr. Thébaud obtained his MD at the University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg/France and trained in Pediatrics and Neonatology at the University Paris V in Paris/France, where he also obtained an MSc and PhD, before completing a 2 year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Alberta. Dr. Thébaud has a 25% clinical-75% research appointment. Dr. Thébaud studies the mechanisms underlying (i) Lung development, injury and repair relevant to bronchopulmonary dysplasia and (ii) the transition of the fetal circulation at birth relevant to the ductus arteriosus and persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn. Dr. Thébaud has developed a research lab to investigate mechanisms of normal lung development and disease in order to discover and evaluate the efficacy and safety of new treatments in pre-clinical animal models and to facilitate the translation of these medications to patients. Dr. Thébaud holds a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Lung and Vascular Developmental Biology and is a Clinical Scholar of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR). Dr. Thébaud's research is currently funded by AHFMR, CIHR and the Heart and Stroke Foundation Canada.

Gustavo Pelligra recently joined the NICU team at the Victoria General Hospital as staff neonatologist. He received his medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and also completed full Paediatrics and Neonatology training in Argentina. Subsequently, Dr. Pelligra moved to Canada and completed a fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the University of British Columbia. His areas of research interest include non-invasive ventilation and hemodynamic management of preterm infants.

Royal Victoria Hospital Fundraiser

On February 18th, 2010, an NICU cocktail fundraiser sponsoring the Royal Victoria Hospital will be held between the hours of 6:00 and 9:00 p.m at the Montreal Athletic Association, 2070 Peel, Montreal, Quebec

If you wish to purchase tickets, please contact Jesse Brooks (jbrooks@terramont.com)

You can help raise funds for the hospital in a number of ways - Donations are welcome (receipts will be issued for those interested), sponsors are needed, or items can be donated for a silent auction. Every little bit helps so contact Jesse today!

CNN Website

The new CNN Website is now up and running. Please take a peek whenever you have a moment and give us some feedback, we're always looking for ways to improve on our work and value constructive criticism!

www.canadianneonatalnetwork.org/



International Conferences—Durban, South Africa

The Neonatal Nursing Association of Southern Africa (NNASA) together with The Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN) are hosting the 7th International Conference for Neonatal Nurses (ICNN) at the ICC in Durban, South Africa, on October 24th—27th, 2010. This promises to be a groundbreaking conference that aims to attract thousands of neonatal professionals from around the globe to come and share the ICNN vision.

COINN was established following the 5th International Neonatal Nurses Conference in Ottawa, Canada, in 2004. The conferences are held every three years. COINN's membership consists of national neonatal nursing associations including South Africa and Kenya. They also have 40 affiliate members/contacts – many in developing countries e.g. Russia, Liberia, Pakistan etc.

NNASA was formed in February 2007. The board consists of six passionate neonatal nurses who have a vision to encourage and support neonatal nurses in southern Africa. Their wish is to improve communication among them, to promote evidenced-based standards of care and ultimately to improve the standard of neonatal care in the region. Their slogan “Reach for the stars” encompasses the belief that through teamwork you can reach beyond yourselves and achieve amazing things.

The Unicef target MDG 4 aims for a 66% reduction in under-five mortality. More than 38% of these deaths occur in the neonatal period and half of these occur within the first week. 99% of neonatal deaths arise in low and middle income countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

NNASA was keen to bring the International Neonatal Nurses Conference to Africa with the following objectives:

- To highlight neonatal care in the region
- To provide the opportunity for African delegates to attend an international conference of this nature
- To promote neonatal nursing as a specialty
- To highlight the fact that neonatal nurses are professionals who need to be part of the debate regarding policy
- To encourage the formation of national neonatal nursing associations and membership thereof
- To promote international communication
- To showcase neonatal care given within South Africa through hospital visits in the area
- To reward excellence

Please go to <http://nnasa.org.za/2010/index.php> for more information regarding deadlines for abstract submissions and attendance confirmation.

CNN Abstractor's Manual Review

Recently, we asked our abstractors to give feedback on the CNN Abstractors Manual, and we would like to wholeheartedly thank the individuals that came back to us with their commentary. We know that this document is extensive and that review of it was quite labour intensive. Those who commented went through the manual with a fine-toothed comb, and we cannot thank you enough for this invaluable contribution. It helps a great deal to have documents looked at with fresh eyes, and will ensure that the manual is a high quality document that will make abstraction quick and easy!

For those abstractors who didn't have a chance to forward to us their list of four additional items that they would like included in their local Patient Chart Screen, you still can forward us this information for future versions of the application.



General Features and Use of the New CNN Application

Compared to the old CNN application, the new CNN application has numerous unique features to facilitate data entry and enhance abstractors' productivity. Some of the major improvements are listed below:

- 1) Brand new, more user-friendly data entry interface
Intuitive side navigation panel for more efficient data access and updates
Dropdown menus and toolbar for easier menu access
- 2) Improved Search Engine
New easily accessible search panel with more search fields as criteria
Patient list view for browsing search results
- 3) Improved data entry validation
Calendar popup date entry, masked edit boxes used to prevent errors at point of entry
Floating error message balloons for unobtrusive field validation
Validate Case screen with easily understandable error messages
- 4) Record Activation / Deactivation feature
Activate / re-activate records instead of using the free-text Comments field
- 5) Unlock record / Log out user feature
User can unlock the locked cases and log out users if the application exits suddenly due to PC/application crash
- 6) Improved Upload/Update functions
More user-friendly database upload and application updates
- 7) Integrated Help system
The CNN manual is now integrated with the CNN application and is automatically updated with new manual revisions during application updates

EPIQ Workshop

The EPIQ workshop has been organized to take place at the **Sheraton Fallsview Hotel & Conference Centre in Niagara Falls, ON** from **March 22 to March 25, 2010**. During this workshop, 2 delegates from each EPIQ site will be in attendance to gather new EPIQ related information, as well as to participate in discussions. The following topics will be included in the agenda:

- Japan and Germany trip delegates will present international best practices and a forum will be held for further discussions regarding future implementation
- Presentations of completed literature reviews
- Presentation of select site PDSA cycles
- A VRC tutorial and Q&A sessions



EPIQ International Team Visits

As many of you are aware, a group of EPIQ team members recently visited Japan and studied the processes put in place in the NICU at the Osaka Medical Centre for Maternal and Child Health Research Institute. The low rates of NEC and NI in Japan prompted this information-gathering trip, with the hopes to introduce new practices from this centre within our Canadian EPIQ sites. Similar trips have also been planned to both Germany and Estonia in March of 2010.

Virtual Research Community (VRC) Rollout

For those EPIQ sites that have already sent in the requested VRC related information, a tutorial will be scheduled with your EPIQ site team to get you started with using the VRC. The VRC is for all EPIQ team members' use and is an information gathering and communication tool. This tool will allow you to easily search through the library of EPIQ practice change forms and literature reviews, as well as to allow you to collaborate with other EPIQ teams. Tutorials will be held via teleconference in the month of January.



International Conference of Kangaroo Mother Care

ANNOUNCING CALL FOR ABSTRACT PROPOSALS

8th International Conference on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC)

Saturday, June 19th to Tuesday, June 22nd, 2010

Quebec City, Canada

We are now welcoming abstracts proposals for the 8th International Conference on KMC. The deadline for submission is Monday, February 15, 2010. We will notify people of the decision not later than March 12th.

Please go to the conference web page to submit your poster proposal online:

<http://www.qvc.qc.ca/kmc2010/Welcome.htm>

Please note the following:

1. There is a limit of one first-authored submission. There is no limit for co-authored (i.e., second or later author).
2. Final acceptance of posters will be contingent on the presenting author registering and paying by the early-bird deadline (in April 15).

Goals

Held under the auspice of the International Network on KMC (INK), the goal of the conference is to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in clinical and basic aspects of KMC applied to prematurity and in different settings of early care. Conference participants will be drawn from a wide range of disciplines such as paediatrics, nursing, neuroscience, psychology, social work, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. The conference aims to:

- Present experiences in KMC influence on infant health and development.
 - Present innovative and outstanding basic and clinical research on prematurity.
 - Demonstrate the role of hospital and family environment on the neurological, social and cognitive development of KMC children.
 - Present follow up protocols in basic and clinical issues for KMC children and families.
- Address the obstacles and facilities (ifs and buts) for implementing KMC nationwide.

Topics

The main topics include:

1. Neurological Development of Preterm Infants
2. Massage and Development of Preterm Infants
3. KMC and Breastfeeding
4. KMC and Follow-up
5. Implementing KMC Worldwide
6. KMC and Family
7. Planning KMC Nationwide

More information about the conference, including about making reservations at the conference hotel, will appear on our web page in the coming weeks.

We encourage you to forward this email to colleagues who might be interested.

We look forward to another enjoyable meeting, and hope that you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,

Rejean Tessier for the Organizing Committee



New Years Wishes from MiCare

Lastly, we hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with happiness, rest, food, friends and fun! We hope that you all had the chance to take a break and came back from whatever time off you had with renewed energy and zeal.



Maternal-Infant Care Research Centre

Updated Contact Information

Maternal-Infant Care Research Centre (MiCare)
 Mount Sinai Hospital
 700 University Avenue, Room 8-500
 Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X6
 Fax: 416-586-8546

CNN / INC, CPSN-WHO and ICONN inquiries: EPIQII and MiCare inquiries:

Sandy Maksimowska, CNN Coordinator
 Email: smaksimowska@mtsinai.on.ca
 Phone: 416-586-4800 ext 3828

Sukhy Mahl, Program Manager of MiCare
 Email: smahl@mtsinai.on.ca
 Phone: 416-586-4800 ext 6746

China Training Program inquiries:

Diana An, Research Nurse
 Email: dan@mtsinai.on.ca
 Phone: 416-586-4800 ext 6671

Database inquiries:

Charles Ah Knit, Database Manager
 Email: cahknit@mtsinai.on.ca
 Phone: 416-586-4800 ext 3839

