Welcoming the Future of Neonatology to the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics

The Section meeting at the NCE in Boston in October was a resounding success. An innovative, outstanding program organized by the Program Chair, David Burchfield, and the NCE Planning Committee, attracted the best attendance in years. In addition, for the first time the meeting included programs specifically geared for neonatal-perinatal medicine (NPM) fellows in training. This programming was an outgrowth of the Section’s strategic planning initiative and a desire to engage NPM trainees and young neonatologists in the activities and leadership of our vibrant section. Identified as a strategic imperative for the Section, the executive committee approved funding to sponsor one fellow from each of the 10 districts to come to Boston to attend the NCE Perinatal Section meeting and participate in an all day pre-NCE meeting for fellows. Many districts sponsored an additional fellow or two so that 16-20 trainees participated at various times in the fellow’s meeting, which took place on October 10, 2008. The meeting was organized and led by Linda Van Marter, SoPPe Chair, DeWayne Pursley, District I representative and SoPPe Chair-Elect, and Judy Aschner, Past Chair of the Organization of Neonatology Training Program Directors (ONTPD). The goals were to define how the Section can best meet the needs of trainees and determine what role trainees are willing and able to play in the Section.

Linda Van Marter started the meeting with an overview of the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics, its mission, organizational structure and the myriad of educational, policy and advocacy activities that impact the lives of neonatologists, infants and their families on a daily basis. Our many liaison relationships were highlighted along with our strategic goals for the coming decade and a preview of the Section’s new website. Much of Linda’s informative presentation came as news to the fellows in the room who seemed completely unaware and rather amazed at the range of Section activities, and the benefits continued on Page 4
View from the Chair

It is a privilege to begin my term as Chair of the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics. Although this responsibility is daunting, I take comfort in the knowledge that the position is supported by a cast of talented and energetic colleagues, and superb long term planning by my predecessors. In a way, my job will be easy. Simply use these marvelous resources to help our organization reach its potential. I hope that you share in my enthusiasm for the days, weeks and years ahead.

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude, on behalf of the entire Section, to Linda Van Marter for her leadership over the past two years. One need only consider the energy generated and the goals accomplished during this time to appreciate the magnitude of her contribution. This level of achievement would not have occurred with less skillful leadership.

We also extend our thanks to the retiring members of the Executive Committee: Charles Rosenfeld from District VII and Deborah Campbell, Past-Chairperson. They may believe that their involvement in the Section has ended, but we have a habit of continuing to involve valuable people even when their formal relationships with the Section end. For example, Deborah will continue to serve as a section liaison with the March of Dimes and in activities related to global health. (See below.)

We welcome Robert Castro as the new representative for District VII. I am sure that he will bring a new and valuable perspective to the group.

The Strategic Plan: An Update

In previous issues of the Newsletter, Dr. Van Marter has described the evolution of the Section’s Strategic Plan. This process began with a re-examination of the mission and goals of the Section by a Planning Group. Areas of potential emphasis in future activities were identified and assigned relative values. Resources were then considered. The result of this process was the development of a plan that outlined activities in four domains: 1) education, 2) leadership, 3) international health and 4) quality improvement. The plan was presented to and endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Section at their spring meeting.

Although much effort and energy was devoted to the development of the plan, in many ways, the hard work has now begun, transforming the generalities of the plan into specifics and execution. The following is a brief update.

Education

The Section is committed to continuing to offer high-quality education in its three traditional venues: the annual AAP NCE, the spring Section meeting in Scottsdale and the bi-annual NeoPREP conference. The Planning Group suggested that we enhance or supplement these offerings by integrating cutting edge learning theory and technology. We have begun this process in small increments. For those who attended the 2008 NCE, you will have noticed the incorporation of small-group, hands-on learning experiences and case-based panel discussions. An audience response system was used to actively engage the participants.

In recognition of the potential role of web-based resources, we have completed the development of a state-of-the-art Section website. Our expectation is that, in the future, we will use this platform to expand into web-based learning experiences and utilize evolving digital technologies. The website was developed under the guidance of Linda Van Marter. I believe that a visit to the website will convince you that this will be a valuable asset in your future endeavors.

Leadership

The Planning Group identified the need for the Section to connect with our trainees and young professionals. They recognized that our leadership and our most active members are aging, and that the vitality of the Section will depend upon engaging our youth.

A first step in engaging young Section members was to invite neonatal trainees to offer their input. This occurred during a one-half day, fellows-only symposium at the 2008 NCE during which fellows were encouraged to enlighten Section leadership. We learned that most fellows had little knowledge about the Section, but that many were interested in becoming involved.

A change that is under consideration is the development of a fellows’ organization within the Section. To insure that fellows’ interests are represented in our communications, the Newsletter will have a “fellow’s column”. The inaugural column, authored by Eric Horowitz from Duke University, appears in this issue.

International Health

Interest in the health of children around the world has never been greater. Sadly, even with an unprecedented level of investment in the needs of children, they continue to suffer a disproportionate amount of the global disease burden. The Planning Group felt that there was sufficient interest among Section members to justify using resources to facilitate efforts in perinatal global health initiatives.
We began by attempting to identify ongoing international health activities in which members participate. Quite frankly, we were overwhelmed by what we learned. There are a remarkable number of members devoting considerable time and effort to these activities. The Planning Group felt that, at a minimum, a general awareness of these activities might encourage further involvement, and that partnership with others involved in international health might facilitate ongoing efforts.

To that end, the Section has developed a formal, meaningful relationship with the Section on International Child Health (SIOCH). They will be represented on our Executive Committee; Jonathan Spector will serve in this capacity. We will assist in the rejuvenation of a web-based inventory of international pediatric health activities that is maintained by the SIOCH. Our commitment is to assist members in identifying neonatal-perinatal activities and maintain an active “hot link” between these web-based resources and the Section website.

We plan to participate in the development of a global health curriculum through the Global Health Education Consortium. This will be a web-based instructional program to help prepare medical professionals for service in developing countries, and other non-traditional health care environments.

Quality Improvement

There is no question that quality improvement has captured the attention of our profession. We all want the quality of medical care to be as good as it can be. Increasingly, others (including payers and parents) are also concerned about the quality of our care. In 2010, those who hold time-limited certificates in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine from the American Board of Pediatrics will need to be involved in initiatives to improve quality in order to maintain their certificates. For these and other reasons, the Planning Group considered ways in which the Section could assist our membership in this critical area of our practices.

In recognition of the tremendous efforts by organizations within our discipline (e.g., the Vermont Oxford Network, the Pediatrix Medical Group and many others), a plan was developed to organize a council of the existing neonatal quality improvement collaboratives, with the hope that there might be opportunities to benefit from the sharing of expertise, and potentially resources. The inaugural meeting of a group of representatives from these collaboratives was held in June of 2008. Although this provided a forum for the exchange of ideas, it was clear that the Section could best contribute if a discreet and valuable deliverable could be identified.

This concept has now evolved into a plan to constitute a committee whose responsibility will be to examine the technical aspects of quality improvement in neonatal medicine, and to publish the results of this work. Potential specific aims include the following:

- To select and prioritize quality improvement objectives in neonatal medicine
- To establish a minimal set of diagnoses, processes and outcomes that would be valid indicators of the quality of perinatal care
- To develop common definitions for these diagnoses, processes and outcomes
- To develop recommendations regarding the need for and elements of their risk adjustment

Final Thoughts

These are exciting but challenging times. My hope is that the Section will add to this excitement and help every member address the challenges. Our Section is the largest subspecialty section in the Academy, and in my opinion, the most active and supportive of its members. However, this vitality is absolutely dependent upon the energy and contributions of the membership. Please let us, know how the Section can better serve your needs. Be creative in your suggestions. Or better yet join us in this journey.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Carl Bose, MD, FAAP

Gravens Center

The 4th international conference on brain monitoring and neuroprotection in the newborn is scheduled for February 20-22 in Orlando, FL.

The conference speakers include Linda deVries, Ingmar Rosen, Terrie Inder, Mona Toet, Frank van Bel, John Barks, Jan Paisley, Lena Hellstrom-Westas, Andrew Whitelaw, Marianne Thoresen, Divyen Shah, and Bob Clancy. The first day of the meeting will feature half-day workshops for prospective, novice, and experienced EEG users, and a workshop for those interested in starting or enhancing a therapeutic hypothermia program. Subsequent days will focus on new developments in brain monitoring and therapeutic hypothermia. For more information, including the call for abstracts and registration forms, please visit www.cme.hsc.usf.edu/brain09.
Welcoming the Future of Neonatology (from Page 1)

membership. The majority in attendance were 3rd year fellows and most did not know that they were Section members, although they acknowledged receiving the Journal of Perinatology, a benefit of membership extended to 3rd year fellows at no expense to them or their training program. The fellows were also unaware of the ONTPD, the fellow’s page on the ONTPD website or the meeting that their program directors were attending that same afternoon in Boston.

Linda’s presentation was followed by presentations by Jennifer Linebarger, Chair of the Section on Medical Student, Resident and Fellow Trainees (SMRF) and Bryan Wohlwend, the District IV representative to the executive committee of the Young Physician’s Section (YPS). By the end of the three presentations, the fellows got the clear message that they were very much wanted in multiple AAP Sections but still confused about the pathway to membership and where they best fit in.

A brainstorming session followed, led by Judy Aschner. The fellows were asked to break into three small working groups, identify a team spokesperson and brainstorm the following questions: (1) What role should fellows play in the SoPPe? (2) Would fellows benefit from a national NPM Fellow’s Group? (3) How can the section better serve trainees and young neonatologists? (4) What are the current opportunities and barriers to networking among fellows? For the next 90 minutes the small break-out teams discussed these four questions and then reported back to the entire group. The fellows immediately engaged in the process. Their energetic discussions identified the following suggestions for how the Section can best meet the needs of trainee and young neonatologists and how they, as trainees, could contribute to the activities of the Section.

The working groups expressed definite interest in a parallel structure for fellow’s representation to SoPPe and to the ONTPD with fellow representatives from each district whose major role would be communication back to the fellows in their district about activities at SoPPe and the ONTPD. They also expressed interest in fellow participation on various committees. There was consensus that this trainee liaison group to the Section should include members that have recently transitioned from fellow to working neonatologist. The fellows saw as goals of this organization bridging the gap between fellowship and first career job and dissemination of information to the trainees. Better communication with fellows about activities, resources and opportunities for involvement in the Section came up repeatedly throughout the day as an area in need of improvement. The fellows noted that not all Program Directors and Division Chiefs do a good job communicating with the ONTPD and new training requirements. With fellow representation at the executive committee and ONTPD, the fellows would be responsible for passing relevant information on to each other.

The fellows were very clear about what they wanted from the Section. Chief among them were better advertisements of available job opportunities in both private practice and academia. They were unaware but enthusiastic about the jobs board on the ONTPD website. They also requested better advertisement of awards and funding sources for fellows and early career neonatologists, better advertisement of educational venues including district meetings and board review courses. They felt they would benefit from detailed descriptions of job prototypes (i.e., clinician-educator, clinician-scientist, private practice) and were seeking information on average starting salaries in various types of practice venues. They were surprised to learn that this information is readily available and published annually by AAMC, AMSPDAC and MGMA for academic and private practice neonatology. They desired access to a list of fellowship programs and current fellows with contact information and were unaware of the efforts of Dilip Bhatt, Chair of the SoPPe Database Committee, who updates the Directory of NPM Training Programs annually. This directory is available on the SoPPe and ONTPD websites.

Other suggestions included on-line subspecialty Board preparation materials which would be more longitudinal than the intensive NeoPREPs course and more specific and in depth than NeoReviews. They offered that this might take the form of an on-line weekly board review course. They requested information and training on neonatal CPT codes and were enthused about the on-line introductory coding course which Dr. Gil Martin will videotape for the Fellow’s Hall of NICUniversity. They also requested training in negotiation skills and contracts as well as leadership training at the district or regional level. A research section on the SoPPe or ONTPD website which would include grant opportunities and an example of a successful K-award grant was suggested by several. They also recommended creation of an on-line SoPPe membership application with the option to join other sections (YPS or SMRF) by simply checking a box; they clearly expressed their preference for their training program or SoPPe to pay the membership fee and felt that membership should be offered to all fellows, not just those in the 3rd year.

They expressed enthusiasm for contributing to the activities and work of the section and specifically identified the new SoPPe website and the ONTPD websites as domains in which they could make a contribution by identifying a fellow webmaster(s) who would be responsible for content updates and IT
as a big attraction and envisioned a central website home for fellows as a place to network, to seek advice or mentorship, and as a place to house a central repository of data and information exchange with a Question or Discussion board open to all. Lack of time was the one barrier they identified to networking and collaborations outside of their own program but almost all in the room expressed interest in getting involved in the Section and helping to make the section relevant and accessible to trainees.

Following this very interactive and energized discussion, Paul Levy, CEO from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, presented a 3 hour long “Strategic Negotiation Seminar” that was informative, interactive and a lot of fun. All agreed that negotiation skills are important in both academic and private practice medicine and that formal training in negotiations is important. It was also clear some of us are better at it than others.

At the conclusion of what was a highly successful day, the group moved to the Colonnade Hotel (where the ONTPD meeting had been held concurrent with the fellow’s meeting) for David Stevenson’s outstanding Keynote Address, entitled “Biological Imaging Using Visible Light.” This was followed by a moderated Poster Walk and reception. Both were well attended and well received. In fact, we needed a bigger room for the poster session which included over 60 poster presentations, including those from former Marshall Klaus awardees, and were moderated by ONTPD program directors and members of the Section Executive Committee. It was terrific to see so many young people participating in the meeting and excited about future participation in our Section.

This enthusiasm was carried over to the rest of the Perinatal Section meeting with eight outstanding abstracts presented on Saturday morning by trainees and junior faculty. Additional components of the Section program of particular interest to trainees included a Neonatal Career Development seminar led by John Hartline and Marilyn Escobedo and four hands-on interactive workshops: simulation for resuscitation training, functional echocardiography for the neonatologist, setting up a regional ROP screening program and new mechanical ventilators. Our fellow attendees at the NCE were also active participants in the State-of-the-Art lecture series on the pulmonary circulation and the Joint Section Program between Perinatal Pediatrics and the Section on Bioethics. It was particularly nice to see the future of our section in the audience as we acknowledged our past with the Cone History Lecture and honored the recipient of the Neonatal Education Award, Dr. Jeffrey Gould, the Landmark Awardee, Dr. Maureen Hack, and the Apgar Awardee, Dr. John Kattwinkel. It is clear that our trainees are enthusiastic and interested in participating in the work of activities and opportunities that active section membership offers. The future of the Perinatal Section depends on it.

Judy Aschner, MD, FAAP

Fellows Update

Forest Through the Trees: A Grassroots Perspective

Do you have the same frustrations? I am in the last year of my Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship and have noticed a few ‘truisms’ in life: 1) the longer you stay, the longer you stay, and 2) those who complain, but offer no solutions, are doomed to complain.

In an attempt to address these, I come to you.

As fellows, we are in a very unique position. We have survived residency, we are enjoying fellowship, and are dreaming of the next step. Soon, however, we will be without the comforts afforded us by our close mentorship. We will be responsible for the training of the next generation, and for our patients.

Concerns are being raised for the skills residents and fellows possess. The Institute of Medicine is modifying the 80-hour work rule. NIH funding is getting more competitive. Physician extenders are becoming the norm. Fewer pediatricians are providing care in nurseries or feeling comfortable at a delivery. These are a few of the concerns I have heard. From our unique perspective, we can help to address these concerns.

The American Academy of Pediatrics can be our voice. They can only advocate for issues if they are made aware of those issues and kept well informed. They need to hear from you. They need your voice.

Through this column, I hope to help us advocate, from the fellow’s perspective, for the needs of our patients, trainees, mentors, and ourselves. I will need your help! Sound daunting? It is, however, up from the grass that any powerful oak does emerge.

Eric Horowitz, MD
eric.horowitz@duke.edu
March of Dimes Releases Premature Birth Report Card

On November 12, 2008, the nation’s 6th annual Prematurity Awareness Day, the March of Dimes issued the first of what will be an annual Premature Birth Report Card. The nation received a “D” and not a single state earned an “A,” when the March of Dimes compared actual preterm birth rates to the national Healthy People 2010 objective. In addition to providing state rankings, the March of Dimes Premature Birth Report Card analyzed several contributing factors and prevention opportunities, including rates of late preterm birth, smoking, and uninsured women of childbearing age. The purpose is to raise public awareness of the growing crisis of preterm birth so elected and appointed officials will commit more resources to address this problem and policymakers will support development of strategies that benefit mothers and babies.

The March of Dimes also invited all Americans to help send a message to our new President and to federal and state lawmakers by signing the 2008 Petition for Preemies. We worked closely with key partners, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, to raise awareness about the Premature Birth Report Card as well as the Petition for Preemies. These can be found at www.marchofdimes.com/petition.

The “call to action” in the Premature Birth Report Card and Petition includes:

- Urging the federal government to increase support for prematurity-related research and data collection;
- Urging federal and state policymakers to expand access to health coverage for women of childbearing age and to support smoking cessation programs as part of maternity care;
- Calling on hospitals and health care professionals to voluntarily assess c-sections and inductions that occur prior to 39 weeks gestation to ensure consistency with professional guidelines; and
- Calling on businesses to create workplaces that support maternal and infant health.

Prematurity Awareness Day is a time when the March of Dimes mobilizes volunteers and parents to draw attention to premature birth, which affects more than 530,000 babies each year in the United States. Our efforts resulted in nationwide coverage in all media outlets. Within 24 hours, the March of Dimes received coverage in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The coverage now totals at least 1200 news stories, including 596 television stories. Nine hundred thirty stories were specifically about the Premature Birth Report card and 350 were about Prematurity Awareness Day and Preemie Petition stories. To date over 115,000 petition signatures have been received.


March of Dimes “Newborn Screening Pocket Facts” for Health Care Professionals

Genetics educational outreach continues as a mission priority for the March of Dimes throughout the spectrum of preconception, prenatal and newborn health for consumers as well as health care professionals. As U.S. newborn screening programs continue to expand, it has created a need for health care professionals to have access to ready-to-use materials to assist them as well as their patients. As a result, the March of Dimes is featuring an educational resource for health care providers: “Newborn Screening Pocket Facts,” which is a multi-panel, easy-to-use laminated pocket guide. The guide includes a table with a description of the 29 conditions recommended for newborn screening by the American College of Medical Genetics, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the March of Dimes. It also includes a brief overview of the newborn screening process from sample collection to follow-up, talking points and other important resources for providers, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Genetics Fact Sheets.

Section on Perinatal Pediatrics Members can receive a free copy of the March of Dimes Newborn Screening Pocket Facts by contacting Bruce Lin, Manager of Special Initiatives in the Office of the Medical Director at the March of Dimes, at 914-997-4510 or via email at blin@marchofdimes.com. If you would like to purchase additional copies, please call 1-800-367-6630. For more information about genetics at the March of Dimes, including CME opportunities, please go to www.marchofdimes.com/genetics.

Scott D. Berns, MD, MPH, FAAP
Visit the new AAP Perinatal Section website: www.aap.org/perinatal
Organization of Neonatology Training Program Directors (ONTPD) Report

The annual ONTPD meeting was held in October, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts in conjunction with the Perinatal Section Meetings. Several issues were discussed:

1. The past year was the first for Neonatology to be involved in the Electronic Residency Application System (ERAS) and the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). Rene Overton from ERAS and Mona Signer from NRMP provided overviews of the first year of the Neonatology matching program and the results. Overall the process went smoothly. However several of the programs did not match, which is common for the first time a subspecialty goes through these processes. Most of the programs that did not match their desired number of applicants interviewed less that the optimal number of applicants and did not list an adequate number for each of their slots. A minimum of 6 applicants listed per slot is recommended.

2. Several programs have received citations during Residency Review Committee (RRC) site visits but without clarity from the RRC as to what the requirements actually are. The greatest concerns have focused on outpatient follow-up clinic and cardiovascular surgery postoperative care. Rita Ryan summarized several of the issues and how they have been communicated by ONTPD to the RRC. A letter from the RRC was sent to ONTPD iterating support for additional communication, especially when programs could address the issues such as outpatient clinic times spent with data. Rita presented some of the data pertaining to follow up clinic that individual programs can use to determine where they stand in terms of average number of time spent by the fellows on outpatient clinics.

3. Susan Guttentag summarized ways to approach standardization of goals and objectives and how these can be implemented and recorded

4. Sunny Juul presented evaluation tools for the fellows including 360 degree approaches.

5. Luc Brion provided information on Individual Learning Plans used at the University of Texas.

6. Drs. John Hartline and Doug Jones provided some views about the field of neonatology training, past present and future.

7. Another issue briefly mentioned was additional duty hour restriction recommendations for the ACGME proposed by the Institute of Medicine. These recommendations were announced on Dec. 2, 2008. The ONTPD Council along with CoP$S$ has written a commentary expressing our concerns and views which will be published in the Journal of Pediatrics in the near future.

Power Point presentations for items 1-6 above have been sent to all the program directors and will also be available on the ONTPD web page.

Joe Neu, MD, FAAP
ONTPD Chairperson

NICHD Trial:
Should infants with HIE receive cooling beyond 6 hours of age?
A trial is underway

The cool cap and NICHD trials have shown benefit from cooling for infants with Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE) if children were randomized by 6 hours of age. It is unknown if the benefits for cooling extend beyond six hours of age. The NICHD Neonatal Research Network is currently performing a study to test the hypothesis that the risk of death or disability among infants $\geq 36$ wks gestation with perinatal hypoxia-ischemia and encephalopathy is reduced if body cooling (esophageal temperature 33.5°C) is initiated between 6-24 hours of age and continued for 96 hours as compared to infants with an esophageal temperature maintained at 37.0°C.

The rationale for this trial includes:
1. Brain injury evolves over days to weeks
2. Temperature has beneficial effects remote from birth
3. Difficult to time intra-partum events
4. Anticipated drift in adherence to existing protocols

The target population includes:
1. Infants that arrive at referral centers after 6 hrs of age
2. Infants that demonstrate progression from stage I to II/III encephalopathy after 6hrs of age
3. Infants in whom cooling cannot be initiated within 6 hours of age (equipment/personnel availability)

Note: the intent of this study is not to withhold therapeutic hypothermia from infants who qualify for therapeutic hypothermia within the first 6hrs after birth.

Screening criteria include:
1. Gestational age $\geq 36$ wks
   a. pH $\leq 7.0$ or base deficit $\geq 16$mEq/L on cord or blood gas < 1hr of age
b. Perinatal event and Apgar \( \leq 5 \) at 10 min
c. Perinatal event/ventilation at birth for \( \geq 10 \) min
d. Items b and c apply if a cord or post-natal blood gas < 1hr is not available; if a blood gas is available, must have a pH 7.01-7.15 or a base deficit 10-15.9mEq/L
Infant needs to meet either a, OR b + d, OR c + d.
2. All infants meeting screening criteria need a neurological examination to verify presence of a moderate or severe encephalopathy
   a. Examinations must be done by a certified examiner at a Network Center

Exclusion criteria include:
1. BW < 1800gms
2. Infant in extremis
3. Known anomaly or chromosomal aberration
4. Core body temp (axilla/rectum) < 34\(^\circ\)C > 1hr
Note: The issue of passive or active cooling on transport is very contentious at present. We recommend that infants be resuscitated and stabilized using NRP guidelines (minimize heat loss) and then maintain normothermia during transport. Given the hazards of elevated temperatures (see Pediatrics 2008;122:491-499) we recommend maintaining a core temperature of 37\(^\circ\)C until infant is evaluated for either therapeutic hypothermia at < 6hrs of age or study eligibility at 6-24hrs of age.

This is a randomized trial with an intervention group and control group as described:

**Intervention Group:**
1. Whole body cooling
2. Esophageal temperature of 33.5\(^\circ\)C
3. Duration of 96hrs
4. Rewarming over 12hrs

**Control Group:**
1. Esophageal temperature maintained at 37\(^\circ\)C (acceptable range 36.5-37.3\(^\circ\)C)
2. Esophageal temperature is used to make adjustments to the thermal environment (servo or manual control modes) as opposed to axilla or rectum
3. If esophageal temperature > 37.5\(^\circ\)C, temperature will be actively reduced with a sponge bath, and if not adequate, initiation of the cooling blanket to decrease the temperature to 37\(^\circ\)C

**Primary Outcome:** Death or disability assessed at 18-22 months
1. Predefined criteria for disability
2. Examiners trained to reliability (Providence or Boston)
3. Examiners unaware of treatment assignment

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**Perinatal Strategies Workshop:**

**“The Light Bulb Moment: Embedding Innovation in Practice”**

Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort – Phoenix, AZ
April 3-5, 2009

Over the past 5 years, the Perinatal Workshop has focused on topics related to organizational structure and evaluation methods applicable to the NICU. As many meetings provide the clinical and research evidence upon which we base clinical decisions, we offer a forum on the transitions from theory to actual practice. As you know, this process requires communication at many levels, people skills, fiscal expertise and leadership. This year’s Workshop will include some perspectives on what the future may hold and how practices can plan for anticipated change. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Presentations on “Quality, Safety, and Innovation,” “Maintenance of Certification” and “The Irresistible Force and the Immovable Object: Life vs. Work.”
- Small group and workshop sessions will address a diverse topic list, including interpreting financial data, use of regional outcome data, beyond coding, quality and competency in neonatal resuscitation, innovation and technology assessment and your NICU, and getting involved in global health.
- The Section on Perinatal Pediatrics and Committee on the Fetus and Newborn will present and discuss priority activities and upcoming statements and guidelines.

The Workshop provides ample opportunity for attendees to meet old colleagues, develop new friendships, and exchange ideas. It also provides an opportunity for all in attendance to meet the leadership of our Perinatal Section and of the Committee on the Fetus and Newborn. Both of these groups seek your guidance on the priority concerns of your practice, be it academic, hospital-based, or private.

This conference is unique! Most meetings talk about how to manage neonates. We focus on how to manage neonatology- its practice, personnel, and environment. It is a great way to get a little “outside of the box”- and the Arizona sun won’t hurt either! Register online at [www.pedialink.org/cmefinder](http://www.pedialink.org/cmefinder) or call toll-free 800-433-9016, option 3.

**Rosemary D. Higgins, MD, FAAP**

higginsr@mail.nih.gov
Safe & Healthy Beginnings:
A Resource Toolkit for Hospitals and Physicians’ Offices

This comprehensive toolkit provides materials and resources focusing on the ABCs of Improving Care for Newborns:
- Assessment of Risk for Severe Hyperbilirubinemia
- Breastfeeding Support
- Coordination of care


This toolkit and its contents are designed for pediatric health care professionals who care for newborns in the office and hospital settings. You can use this informative resource with complete confidence as the tools contained in the kit were tested by teams of pediatric health care professionals using quality improvement methods through the AAP’s Quality Improvement Innovation Network. This kit includes inventories, readiness checklists, follow-up letters, assessment and documentation tools, coding resources, parent handouts, and more!

The Safe and Healthy Beginnings Toolkit has been endorsed by The Joint Commission and Child Health Corporation of America. Additional information about the toolkit is available on Practice Management Online. If you are interested in purchasing Safe and Healthy Beginnings: A Resource Toolkit for Hospitals and Physicians’ Offices, please visit the AAP Bookstore.

CODING QUESTION:

A 36 week (2300 gram) infant is transferred back to the referral hospital after 45 days stay in the NICU. The child requires nasal cannula oxygen 0.75 lpm, NG/PO feeding and caffeine for apnea. A large volume of records accompany the infant including chest x-rays. The admitting neonatologist reviews all the records (time spent one hour) and then does a comprehensive physical exam and medical decision making of moderate complexity. Total time spent on admitting this child was two hours. The neonatologists in each hospital are in different groups.

The proper code(s) for the neonatologist at the referral hospital is:
- a. 99223, 99358
- b. 99477
- c. 99222, 99356, 99357

ANSWER on Page 24

Now Available!

National Perinatal Association

The NPA is pleased to be represented on the Executive Committee of the Perinatal Section of the AAP.

The NPA in November concluded a very successful annual meeting at Loma Linda University in California. The topic of the conference was “Spectrum of Violence in Perinatal and Neonatal Medicine: Reducing the Risks and Stressors.” The conference featured national and international speakers and their recent research.

The NPA continues its work on its Palliative Care Initiative, and recently released its position paper on Palliative Care. (Available at its website: nationalperinatal.org)

NPA welcomes its incoming President, Mitchell Goldstein, MD, a neonatologist from CA.

Starting at the April, SoPP executive meeting in Scottsdale, the NPA will be represented by outgoing President, Sharon Chesna, MPA of NY.

Al Pizzica, MD
Workshop on Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring

Recently, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine jointly sponsored a Workshop to revisit nomenclature, interpretation and research recommendations for intrapartum electronic fetal heart rate (FHR) monitoring. The major outcomes from the Workshop were to define specific patterns of FHR tracings, such as decelerations and variability, and to recommend a new schema for categorization of FHR tracings.

The Workshop reaffirmed many of the previous definitions of FHR and uterine contraction patterns. The major change to previous recommendations includes a shift to a 3-tier system of categorization of FHR tracing. The definitions of the recommended tiers are:

**Category I (NORMAL)** (include all of the following):
- Baseline rate 110-160 bpm
- Baseline FHR variability: Moderate
- Late or variable decelerations: Absent
- Early Decelerations: present or absent
- Accelerations: present or absent.

**Category II (INDETERMINANT)** (include all FHR tracings not categorized as Category 1 or Category 3, and may include any of the following):
- Baseline Rate:
  - Bradycardia not accompanied by absent baseline variability
  - Tachycardia
- Baseline FHR variability:
  - Minimal
  - Absent not accompanied by recurrent decelerations
  - Marked
- Accelerations:
  - Absence of induced accelerations after fetal stimulation

**Periodic or episodic decelerations**
- Recurrent variables accompanied by minimal or moderate variability
- Prolonged deceleration > 2 minutes but < 10 minutes
- Recurrent late decelerations with moderate baseline variability
- Variable decelerations with other characteristics such as slow return to baseline, "overshoots" or "shoulders"

**Category III (ABNORMAL)** (include either):
- Absent baseline FHR variability and any of the following:
  - recurrent late decelerations
  - recurrent variable decelerations
  - bradycardia
- Sinusoidal pattern

The published summary includes definitions of all of the FHR patterns described above, as well as definitions of different uterine contraction patterns.

Specific definitions of the FHR tracings and the categories for interpretation were published in the September issue of *Obstetrics and Gynecology* (Obstet Gynecol 2008: 112:661-6).

Eric C. Eichenwald, MD, FAAP
DATABASE COMMITTEE REPORT

2008 UNITED STATES & CANADA
NEWBORN INTENSIVE CARE UNITS (NICUs), NEONATOLOGISTS, PERINATOLOGISTS & NEONATAL NURSE PRACTITIONERS (NNPs)

NICUs Update
Over the last two years we have been in the process of updating all the NICUs of USA and Canada. To date we have updated all 884 NICUs in the USA and 29 NICUs in Canada.

It seems that there may be another 100 – 150 NICUs that are missing in the directory that were identified from lists provided by the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) and Pediatrix. We are currently contacting each of the NICUs by mail and by telephone to obtain additional information.

I. NICUs, Levels of Neonatal Care & Neonatologists By State

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<th>State</th>
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<th>Levels of Neonatal Care</th>
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II. Levels of Neonatal Care Information

We are working diligently to obtain accurate information regarding the Level of Neonatal Care from individual NICU Directors. We do not have confirmed information for approximately 250 – 350 NICUs. We would like to request each NICU Medical Director verify the level of neonatal care of their NICU, sign and date the survey form. The Committee of Fetus and Newborn (COFN), Vermont Oxford Network (VON) and the Database Committee are all working together to review the outcome data of NICUs on the basis of Levels of Neonatal Care.

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Totals: 884 138 459 156 90 41 4308

continued on Page 14
III. Directory of USA & Canada – 2009: Proposed Timeline

Phase I  All NICUs of USA & Canada; to complete by April 2009
Phase II  All Neonatologists to complete by April 2009
Phase II  All Perinatologists and all NNPs; to complete by October 2009

A. Neonatologists
There are 4309 Board Certified Neonatologists in the USA and 47 Board Certified Neonatologists in Canada. Dr. Gail McGuinness, Executive Vice-President of the American Board of Pediatrics, provided this information to us in August 2008.

B. Perinatologists
There are 1390 Perinatologists in the USA.

C. Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (NNP)
There are 3030 NNPs in the USA.

IV. Thanks
We are thankful to all NICU medical directors of the US and Canada who have contributed to the updating process.

In January 2009, we will begin the process of mailing a copy of the Directory of NICUs to all 884 Medical Directors. Each Medical Director will receive a copy of the Directory for his/her respective state only.

This has been made possible by an educational grant provided by Mead-Johnson Nutritionals.

V. E-Mail Addresses of All Neonatologists
We would like to request all Neonatologists to check their own listing and verify accuracy. Send updates, including e-mail address, postal mailing address, and contact phone and fax numbers to us ASAP to one of the following two e-mail addresses.

This information is for the sole purpose of the AAP US & Canada NICU Directory and will not be shared with any outside organizations.

jasupdate@aol.com
or
Dilip.R.Bhatt@kp.org

Example:  
Dilip R. Bhatt, MD, FAAP  
Kaiser Permanente  
9985 Sierra Ave.  
Fontana, CA 92335  
Office Phone: (909) 427-5848  
Office Fax: (909) 427-5206  
E-mail Address: Dilip.R.Bhatt@kp.org

Database Committee:  
Dilip R. Bhatt, MD, Chair  
Linda Van Marter, MD, Past Chair  
Jeff Gould, MD  
Jeff Horbar, MD

Database Committee Report from Page 13

NICU FOLLOW UP CLUB  
2009 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting  
Baltimore, MD  
Saturday, May 2, 2009  
12:15-1:45 pm  

“Gastroesophageal Reflux in Premature Infants: Is It Really a Disease?”

Moderators: Ricki Goldstein, MD and Sonia Imaizumi, MD  
Speakers: Richard Martin, MD & David Adamkin, MD  

Supported, in part, through an educational grant from Abbott Nutrition

Contact for Information:  
Jim Couto, MA  
Phone: 847/434-7656  
Email: jcouto@aap.org

4th Annual William A. Silverman MD Lecture  
“Applying Clinical Research to Improve Newborn Care”  
Alan H. Jobe, MD, FAAP  

2009 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting  
Sunday, May 3, 2009  
3:00-3:45 PM  
Baltimore Convention Center  
Baltimore, MD  

Sponsored by the AAP Section on Perinatal Pediatrics
Report from the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Officers:
President: Michael R. Foley, MD, 2008-2009
Vice President & President-Elect: Sarah J. Kilpatrick, MD, PhD, 2008-2009
Secretary-Treasurer: George R. Saade, MD, 2008-2010
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer: Brian M. Mercer, MD, 2008-2010
Immediate Past President: Katharine D. Wenstrom, MD, 2008-2009

Board:
Wendy Hansen, MD, 2009
Mark Landon, MD, 2009
George Macones, MD, 2009
Laura Riley, MD, 2009
Alfred Abuhamad, MD, 2010
Steve Bloom, MD, 2010
Kate Menard, MD, 2010
Larry Platt, MD, 2010
Vince Berghella, MD, 2011
David Luthy, MD, 2011
Carol Major, MD, 2011
Lynn Simpson, MD, 2011

ACOG Representative:
John Calkins, MD, 2008-2010

Associate Member Representative:
Yair Blumenfeld, MD, 2008-2009

Ex-Officio:
Daniel F. O’Keeffe, MD (Government Relations)
Catherine Y. Spong, MD (NIH/NICHD)
Thomas J. Garite, MD (SMFM Foundation)
Mary E. D’Alton, MD (MFM Foundation)

Membership
Regular Members 1,184
Associate Members 403
Affiliate Members 130
Honorary Members 28
Emeritus Members 51
Resident Members 87
Coding Members 128
Total Members 2,011

29th Annual Meeting – The Pregnancy Meeting™
January 26-31, 2009
Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA

Dr. Alessandro Ghidini, Program Chair
Dr. George Macones, Poster Chair
Dr. Alfred Abuhamad, Postgraduate Course Chair

A record number of 1,240 abstracts were submitted by the August 8th deadline. After undergoing a two-tiered peer review process, 86 abstracts have been selected for oral presentation and approximately 750 more will be presented as posters. New features for the 2009 meeting include posters displayed in electronic format and postgraduate course syllabi produced on CDs. The meeting’s Plenary Sessions will also be webcast with free access provided to SMFM members.

The following postgraduate courses are being offered in conjunction with the 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting:
- Methods for Clinical Research in Perinatal Medicine (George Macones, course director)
- Fetal Cardiology: From Diagnosis to Management (Josh Copel & Jack Rychik, course directors)
- NT Credentialing
- Targeted Approach to Fetal Anomalies (Lynn Simpson & Eliza Berkley, course directors)
- Diabetes and Obesity (Pat Catalano and Erin Keely, course directors)
- Update in Perinatal Genetics (Katharine Wenstrom, course director)
- ABOG MFM Fellowship Program Directors Workshop (Sue Ramin & Haywood Brown, course directors)
- Safety and Simulation in Obstetrics (Tom Moore & Bill Grobman, course directors)
- Critical Care Management in Obstetrics (Luis Pacheco & John Sullivan, course directors)
- Fetal Growth and Developmental Programming (George Saade & Henry Galan, course directors)

Fellowship Affairs
The Society is launching a National SMFM Lecture Series which will be accessible online. Each lecture will be taped and all the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Programs will be invited to view it at a particular time, followed by a Q&A session with the lecturer live via web chat. Dr. George Saade is leading off the series with a lecture on “Cesarean Section on Maternal Request”. Future topics and speakers include Dr. Brian Mercer lecturing on steroids; “Pearls in Critical Care” given by Dr. Michael Foley; and Dr. Sarah Kilpatrick lecturing on thyroid physiology and disease. The plan is to have new lectures available on a monthly basis.

Publications Committee
Recent SMFM-branded publications include “Oral Health and Pregnancy Outcomes” by Dr. Kim Boggess, published in the Obstetrics & Gynecology’s Clinical Expert Series and Dr. Michael Belfort’s and Dr. Irene Stafford’s article regarding “The Diagnosis and Treatment of Placenta Accreta/Increta/Percreta”, published as a two-part series in the April and May issues of Contemporary Ob-Gyn. The Society has collaborated

continued on Page 16
with ACOG on a revised Committee Opinion regarding “Use of Progesterone to Reduce Preterm Birth” which was developed by Drs. Sarah Kilpatrick and Catherine Spong. The final version has been approved by both ACOG and the SMFM Executive Committee.

SMFM Website
The SMFM website, originally created in 2000, will be undergoing a major overhaul. Broad structural changes include interface redesign of the look and feel and navigation to update the entire site.

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Foundation
Scholarly Activities Subcommittee:
The Scholarly Activities Subcommittee received fifteen applications for the 2009 SMFM/AAOGF Award. The recipient of the 2009 scholarship is Antonette Dulay, MD, a maternal-fetal medicine fellow at Yale University. The Committee is making site visits to monitor progress of current scholars as well as conducting interviews of applicants before issuing the grants. The senior scholars will be strongly encouraged to present at the SMFM Annual Meeting.

Fundraising/Development Subcommittee Activities:
The Fund Raising Subcommittee, co-chaired by Dr. Ted Quilligan and Dr. John Queenan, continues to make strides. The Founders Club, available to the first 200 members who joined the Society in its fledging stage and who pledge $10,000, has 35 members as of June 2008 (up from 25 members in January 2008). The Foundation is going to pursue large donations from private practices. The Silent Auction was a success in January 2008, earning approximately $8,000 for the Foundation. The Grateful Patient program was launched this spring and is already receiving attention from patients.

SMFM Foundation Activities:
Four applications were received for the Foundation’s new Mini-Sabbatical Program. The Mini-Sabbatical (6-8 weeks) Grants are intended to gain or expand a member’s skills in practice or research under the guidance of experts in the field of maternal-fetal medicine. The 2008 Grants were awarded to Dr. Lama Tolaymat of the University of Florida to undergo CVS training with Dr. Laura Goetzl at the Charleston Women’s Medical Center and Dr. Camille Kanaan of the Albany Medical Center, who will also undergo CVS training under the mentorship of Dr. Ron Wapner at Columbia University. The Foundation has received approval from ABOG to launch a Mini-Sabbatical program for MFM fellows-in-training in 2009. Plans are underway to develop a Foundation branch of the SMFM website, with resources for Corporate Council members, donors, and Society members interested in the activities of the Foundation.

Michael Foley, MD

Historical Notes

Boston’s Boylston Street

Boston has influenced the course of US history like few other cities in this country. Home of numerous historical milestones, Boston appropriately showcases its past glory through scores of monuments and memorials. In this article, I will describe one of Boston’s lesser known medical historical memorials.

Boylston Street

Why is it named Boylston Street and who was Boylston?

A smallpox epidemic hit Boston in 1721, affecting more than half of its 12,000 inhabitants and killing over 900. The city’s famous theologian Reverend Cotton Mather had learned from one of his slaves named Onesimus that in Africa “variolation” was practiced to prevent smallpox. Mather had also read about it in a science periodical, Transactions, which he received as part of his membership dues to the London Royal Society. Variolation was not done using cowpox pus—that was to come 80 years later through Edward Jenner’s monumental discovery in England. It involved making a small wound on the skin of a healthy person and infecting it by placing a small amount of smallpox pus taken from a victim.

Desperate to do something to halt the epidemic, Mather tried to persuade Boston doctors to use variolation. No
doctor agreed, except for Dr. Zabdiel Boylston (1679-1766). On Monday 26 June 1721, he performed variolation, initially on his only son Thomas, and then on two slaves. All three developed a mild case of smallpox and all recovered by the 4th of July. The first smallpox inoculation in the American colonies was now history.

The Chinese, Indians, and Middle Easterners had been carrying out various forms of “inoculation” against smallpox since antiquity, by intentionally inducing milder forms to prevent severe forms of smallpox. The technique was haphazard at best and the results were largely unpredictable. The practice involved obtaining pus or powdered crusts from healed smallpox lesions and inserting them with pins or poking devices into the skin, or having them inhaled. In 1717, Lady Mary Mortley Montague, the wife of the British Ambassador to Turkey, had her son inoculated in Istanbul. She introduced the technique in England against intense opposition.

As the news of Boylston’s experiment spread, a bitter controversy arose. Bostonians feared that inoculation would lead to the spread of smallpox rather than prevent it. Many members of the medical profession and the clergy strenuously opposed the inoculation practice and forbade Boylston from continuing the experiment. A letter in the Boston newspaper was typical of the general reaction: “...for a man to infect a family in the morning with smallpox and to pray to God in the evening against the disease is blasphemy;” that smallpox is “a judgment of God on the sins of the people,” and that “to avert it is but to provoke him more;” and that inoculation is “an encroachment on the prerogatives of Jehovah, whose right it is to wound and smite.”

The opposition was so severe that there were calls for trying Boylston for murder. He faced death threats and was attacked on the streets forcing him to stay indoors after sunset. Lighted grenades were thrown at the houses of Boylston and Mather. Mobs hunted them with nooses intending to hang both men.

If our patients and families (especially those with bad outcomes) reacted thusly towards us, how many of us would continue to practice medicine?

In spite of such fierce opposition, hundreds of Bostonians, however, sought him out for inoculation, and Boylston performed the procedure fearing little. In a dramatic instance, he inoculated five members of a family of one Mr. Edward Dorr. Four additional members became ill, all at the same time. But all nine recovered, proving his critics wrong. Boylston’s cumulative experience was impressive: 6 of the 244 (2.5%) inoculated inhabitants died, compared to 844 of the 5980 (14%) who had contracted the disease naturally.

It took one year for the epidemic to abate, and several more decades for Bostonians to appreciate the phenomenal contributions of Cotton Mather and Zabdiel Boylston who had saved hundreds of lives in their Fair City. Both these men were far ahead of their time.

Consider Boylston’s experiment with the following perspectives. He had carried out variolation 80 years before Jenner introduced an improved method of vaccination using cowpox; about 150 years before Louis Pasteur introduced the Germ Theory proving that microbial agents could cause illnesses; about 160 years before the first batch of disease-causing viruses (in tobacco plants and in cattle) were discovered; and nearly 180 years before the rudimentary understanding of modern immunology began.

Albeit belatedly, Bostonians recognized and honored Zabdiel Boylston. In 1821, on the first centenary of the introduction of smallpox inoculation in the US, a major street in Boston (previously called Frogg Lane) was renamed Boylston Street. This is now one of the major east-west thoroughfares in the City, running over 30 miles. The next time you cross it or drive on Boylston Street, say thanks to Dr. Zabdiel Boylston.

References

Tonse N. K. Raju, MD, DCH
Coding Update

Coding issues for 2009 are progressive and complex. There is an entire section of CPT dedicated to neonatal coding. This designation occurred because of an entire renumbering of the neonatal codes. The renumbering process was necessary since basically the neonatal codes had run out of “successive numbers” and we believed that a “short term pain” was worth a “long term gain.”

In addition, there were better definitions for the use of licensed “non physician providers,” especially NNPs. Licensed non physician providers may provide medically necessary services within their state’s scope of practice without direct physician supervision and may report their services separately using a national provider identification (NPI) number. The circumstances may change if the NNP is employed by the neonatology or physician group.

This newsletter’s coding column presents a crosswalk of all the renumbered codes.

Newborn Care

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<tr>
<td>99435</td>
<td>99463 Initial hospital or birthing center care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the normal newborn infant admitted and discharged on the same date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99436</td>
<td>99464 Attendance at delivery (when requested by the delivering physician and initial stabilization of newborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99440</td>
<td>99465 Delivery/Birthing_Room resuscitation: provision of positive pressure ventilation and/or chest compressions in the presence of acute inadequate ventilation and/or cardiac output</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inpatient Neonatal and Pediatric Critical Care Services

Initial and Continuing Intensive Care Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD</th>
<th>NEW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99477</td>
<td>99478 Subsequent intensive care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the recovering very low birth weight infant (present body weight less than 1500 grams)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99479</td>
<td>99479 Subsequent intensive care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the recovering low birth weight infant (present body weight of 1500-2500 grams)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99480</td>
<td>99480 Subsequent intensive care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the recovering infant (present body weight of 2501-5000 grams)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gil Martin, MD
Young Investigator Awards

Stefanie Peterson Rogers and Lindsay Johnston were awarded the Young Investigator Awards for their research presentations at the Perinatal Section of the NCE in Boston in October.

Stefanie Peterson Rogers, MD is currently a third year Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellow at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. During her fellowship, Dr. Rogers has been part of a unique dual-training program in both neonatology and nutrition research. She has worked on a series of projects related to nutrient requirements and metabolic processes in infants. This research is crucially needed due to the lack of an evidence base for many common practices in neonatal and infant nutrition and metabolism.

Dr. Rogers received the AAP Young Investigators Award for her work on nutrient losses in commonly used feeding practices in the NICU. Additionally, Dr. Rogers is in the process of completing a study to evaluate the mineral bioavailability in a novel human milk-based fortifier and to evaluate bone mineral and body composition outcomes in preterm infants who receive human milk-based fortifiers. This research is key to interpreting ongoing development and utilization of human milk-based fortifiers.

Prior to fellowship, Dr. Rogers completed her Pediatrics Residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX after receiving her MD at Saint Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. She lives in the Houston area with her husband, Jason, and daughter, Morgan.

Dr. Lindsay Johnston, a fellow in Neonatal-Perinatal medicine at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, received her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and completed three years of clinical training as a resident at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Johnston’s research has focused on the effects of Nitric Oxide (NO) and hyperoxia on the differentiation of human fetal Type II pneumocytes. Utilizing a well-established fetal lung epithelial cell model of Type II cell differentiation, Dr. Johnston demonstrated significant increases in markers of Type II cells, including Pepsinogen C protein, and Surfactant B and C mRNA, with exposure to NO in room air. However, these differences did not persist with NO exposure in hyperoxic conditions. She is currently investigating the effect of NO on the synthesis of proteins related to Type II cell differentiation, and exploring the hypothesis that NO signaling is disrupted during hyperoxia.

Dr. Johnston would like to acknowledge her mentors, Dr. Harry Ischiropoulos and Dr. Linda Gonzales, and the faculty in the Neonatology Division at CHOP. Dr. Johnston is scheduled to successfully complete her fellowship training on June 30, 2009 and she is seeking a faculty position at an academic medical center.

2009 Neonatal Resuscitation Program

Research Grant and Young Investigator Award Call for Applications

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) Steering Committee and the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics are pleased to announce the availability of the 2009 Neonatal Resuscitation Program Research Grant and the NRP Young Investigator Award. The awards are designed to support basic science, clinical, educational, or epidemiological research pertaining to the broad area of neonatal resuscitation.

Physicians-in-training or individuals within four years of completing fellowship training are eligible to apply for up to $10,000 through the NRP Young Investigator Award.

Any health care professional with an interest in neonatal resuscitation can submit a proposal for up to $25,000 through the NRP Research Grant Program.

Researchers from Canadian and US institutions are invited to apply.

Potential applicants should submit an intent for application to the NRP Steering Committee by Friday, May 1, 2009. All intents will be reviewed and the committee will ask a select group to submit full proposals. Those selected to submit a full proposal will receive the formal application by Friday, June 26, 2009. Completed applications will be due on Friday, August 28, 2009.

To obtain the NRP Research Grant or NRP Young Investigator Award Program Guidelines and the Intent for Application, please contact:

American Academy of Pediatrics
Division of Life Support Programs
The American Academy of Pediatrics’ Section on Perinatal Pediatrics is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Virginia Apgar Award. This award is given annually to an individual whose career has had a continuing influence on the well being of newborn infants.

The 2008 recipient of the Apgar Award was John Kattwinkel, MD. Previous Apgar recipients include: M. Jeffrey Maisels, MD, David Stevenson, MD, Philip Sunshine, MD, Robert Usher, MD, Joan Hodgman, MD, William A. Silverman, MD, Kurt Benirschkie, MD, L. Stanley James, MD, Mildred Stahlman, MD, William Tooley, MD, Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos, MD, Mary Ellen Avery, MD, L. Joseph Butterfield, MD, John Clements, MD, and Av Fanaroff, MD. Please consider your candidate to join this esteemed group.

All AAP fellows interested in Perinatal Pediatrics are invited to submit nominations. The nominee need not be a member of the AAP. The nomination should include a cover letter and a curriculum vitae of the nominee. A second letter in support of the nomination is required and up to four support letters will be accepted. Candidates who have been previously nominated but not selected may be re-nominated by a letter indicating renewal of their prior nomination. It is not necessary to resubmit all the paper work, as long as the original nomination package was complete.

The nominations must be received by March 6, 2009.

Please send all nominations to:

Jim Couto, MA
Director, Division of Hospital & Surgical Services
American Academy of Pediatrics
141 N.W. Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
jcouto@aap.org
847/434-7656

The Apgar Award is sponsored, in part, by a grant from Abbott Nutrition and will be presented at the meeting of the Perinatal Section during the 2009 National Conference & Exhibition of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Washington, DC.
2009 NEONATAL LANDMARK AWARD
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**Deadline: March 6, 2009**

Nominations are now accepted for the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics Landmark Award. This award will be presented at the 2009 AAP National Conference & Exhibition in Washington, DC, October 17-19, 2009. Awarded for a seminal contribution, which has had a major impact on neonatal-Perinatal practice. Not necessarily the original description or publication but recipient could be the individual responsible for dissemination and acceptance within/by the professional and/or lay community. To be eligible the “event” must have occurred at least 15 years ago, and the nominee must not have received the Virginia Apgar Award. The award can be awarded posthumously.

The recipient is chosen each year at the Perinatal Spring Workshop, which this year is on April 3-5, 2009 in Phoenix, Arizona. Final AAP Board of Directors approval will be granted in June of 2009 and the recipient will be notified at that time.

If you wish to nominate an individual, or yourself, please submit:

- a letter of interest including justification as to why this individual should receive the award;
- the candidate’s curriculum vitae;
- two supporting letters from two members of the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics

**ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETE BEFORE MAILING IN YOUR NOMINATION.** Please send all materials no later than March 6, 2009 to:

Jim Couto, MA
Director, Division of Hospital & Surgical Services
American Academy of Pediatrics
141 N.W. Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Phone: 847/434-7656; Fax: 847/434-8000
jcouto@aap.org

The Neonatal Education Award is sponsored by a grant from Mead Johnson Nutritionals and will be presented at the meeting of the Perinatal Section during the 2009 National Conference & Exhibition of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Washington, DC.
The Section on Perinatal Pediatrics offers grants for educational or organization purposes within the individual perinatal districts of the Academy. The grant award is up to $4,000 per district. Applicants must be members of the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics. The following guidelines should be followed when submitting for funding:

1. The grant may be used to promote neonatal/perinatal health and education with in the district, including, but not limited to:
   a) continuing education programs for neonatal/perinatal medicine health care professionals within the district
   b) programs designed to improve quality of perinatal care delivered within the district
   c) communication initiatives or other organizational support which could promote improved regional perinatal health
   d) programs for young investigators to foster further training and investigation in the area of perinatal/neonatal health

2. Priority will be given to programs with specific objectives with measurable outcomes. These should be stated in the application. Other factors that will be considered include impact, sustainability, and geographic distribution of registrants.

3. Grants may be used jointly by neighboring districts.

4. Grant applications must include title, purpose, specific objectives, target audience, proposal/program content and budget.
   
   • **Applications should be discussed with your District Representative on the Section’s Executive Committee prior to submission.**
   • The planned activity should not conflict with the Section’s spring workshop (April 3-5, 2009) or the AAP’s National Conference (October 17-20, 2009)
   • Following the sponsored program, a copy of the brochure, number of people attending and their professional affiliations and program evaluations results should be submitted as soon as possible after the meeting or by June 29, 2010 to Jim Couto, MA, Director, Division of Hospital & Surgical Services, 141 Northwest Point Blvd., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007.

The submission deadline is March 20, 2009. Proposals should be sent to Jim Couto, MA at the above address. A letter of support from the District Representative on the Executive Committee of the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics should be forwarded with the proposal.

**The grants are supported, in part, through an educational grant from Abbott Nutrition**
Coding Answer from Page 10

Answer – A

99223 represents the first hospital inpatient encounter with the patient by the admitting physician. It is an initial hospital care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient. The requirements include documentation of a comprehensive history, a comprehensive examination, and medical decision making of high complexity. Each component, history, physical examination and medical decision making must reach the highest level of the E/M service code. (CPT 2009, page 13; CPT Assistant Aug 04:11; Coding for Pediatrics 2009, pages 106-108.

99358 Prolonged evaluation and management service before and/or after direct (face-to-face) patient care (eg, review of extensive records and tests, communication with other professionals and/or the patient/family); first hour (List separately in addition to code(s) for other physician service(s) and/or inpatient or outpatient Evaluation and Management Service) CPT 2009, page 26; CPT Assistant Nov 05:10, Coding for Pediatrics 2009, pages 74-75, 109.

99477 Initial hospital intensive care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the ill neonate, 28 days of age or less, who requires intensive observation and monitoring. Infants of any present body weight who are not critically ill but continue to require intensive cardiac and respiratory monitoring, continuous and/or frequent vital sign monitoring, heat maintenance, enteral and/or parenteral nutritional adjustments, laboratory and oxygen monitoring and constant observation by the health care team under direct physician supervision. (CPT 2009, page 35, CPT Changes: An Insiders View 2008, Coding for Pediatrics 2009, page 117-118).

At first glance a 99477 code seems appropriate as the baby satisfies the criteria for an intensive care admission. However, the infant is more than 28 days of age and the 99477 code is restricted to babies 28 days or less. Therefore the 99223 code reflecting a high complexity illness is chosen. The non face-to-face prolonged service code is added to 99223 to reflect the time spent in record review.

District News

Connecticut

Shabnam Lainwala joined the Division of Neonatology at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in October.

Adam Matson received a K-08 award from the NIH (5 yrs 650,000) for his research program on the effects of the maternal environment of expression of allergy in the fetus.

Marilyn Sanders presented an invited lecture to the Connecticut Perinatal Association in November 2008 on The Late Preterm Infant. She also organized and facilitated the first State of the Region (Northern Connecticut) Neonatal Care Conference in November 2008.

Stamford Hospital

Vasudeva Kamath joined Stamford Hospital this past August as a full time neonatologist, coming back east from a position in Texas.

St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center

Hema de Silva was elected President of the Medical/Dental staff.

University of Connecticut

Len Eisenfeld was promoted to adjunct professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Connecticut.

Kathleen Marinelli has been very active in the breastfeeding/human milk arena. She was elected to the first AAP Section of Breastfeeding Medicine and was named medical director of Mother’s Milk Bank of New England.

Dr. Marinelli moderated the 2008 Research Roundtable, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, Dearborn, MI; Oct, 2008; she presented a lecture as keynote address, “Delayed Lactogenesis II” at the Massachusetts Breastfeeding Coalition Annual Conference of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Waltham, MA, on October 6, 2008.

Victor Herson was named Interim Chair of Neonatology,
MASSACHUSETTS

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Camilia Martin has been awarded a faculty fellowship from the Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center (Harvard Catalyst) Program for Faculty Development and Diversity. The program will provide two years of support for her studies in “fat malabsorption, bacterial colonization, and intestinal injury in the preterm infant.”

Tufts-New England Medical Center

Francheska Silfa Mazara, has been awarded the 2008 Marshall Klaus Research Award and the Ikaria Neonatal Fellow Research Award.

Trisha Tsay, newborn medicine fellow, was also awarded the Ikaria Neonatal Fellow Research Award.

MaryAnn Volpe has organized and will chair the State of the Art Plenary Symposium entitled “Transcription Regulation of Normal and Abnormal Lung and Cardiovascular Development” at the 2009 PAS meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

Christiane Dammann and Heber Nielsen, as co-principal investigators, were awarded an R01 NIH grant entitled “ErbB Signaling in Fetal Type II Cell Growth.”

Jonathan Davis gave the following lectures:


“The role of antioxidants in preventing oxygen radical disease of the newborn.” Recent Advances in Neonatal Medicine, Wurzburg, Germany, October, 2008.

“The role of antioxidants in preventing oxygen radical disease of the newborn; The effects of antenatal factors on neonatal outcome.” Visiting Professor, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, January, 2009.

He will give this lecture in February 2009:

“The role of antioxidants in preventing oxygen radical disease of the newborn.” Visiting Professor, University of California at San Diego, San Diego, CA.

U Mass Medical Center

Our Neonatal Update Conference will be Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza in Worcester, MA.

The Griffin/New England Organization of Neonatologist Symposium/Meeting will be held on Friday, September 25th, 2009 at the Royal Plaza in Marlboro, MA. NEAN President for 2009 is Jay Haggerty (Central Maine), Vice-President is Munish Gupta (Beth Israel Deaconess) and Secretary is Alan Picarillo (U Mass).

Mary Whalen and Kerianne Silvestri both received Doctorate in Nursing Practice degrees from Case Western Reserve University.

Mary Whalen also received the “Excellence in Nursing Award for the Division of Pediatrics, 2008.”

Alan Picarillo received the Pediatric Teaching Award from U Mass Residents. He also was appointed to a U Mass Memorial QI department position.

Brad Drabant, third year fellow, received a NIH Trainee fellowship.

RHODE ISLAND

Women & Infants' Hospital of Rhode Island


Rosemarie Bigsby presented, “Intervention for the High Risk Infant: Providing Services in the NICU and During the Transition Home.” This two-day conference for health care professionals was held on September 26-27, 2008 at Dekalb Medical Center, Decatur, Georgia. Dr. Bigsby moderated a group break-out session, and participated in a panel discussion and presented, “The Importance of Nurturing Touch in the NICU” at the Annual Conference of the International Association of Infant Massage Instructors, Denver, CO on October 5, 2008. Dr. Bigsby attended a two-day workshop on “Positive Touch in the NICU” presented by Cherry Bond, RN of Winnicott Neonatal Unit, London, UK, in Boulder, CO, October 8 & 9, 2008. Dr. Bigsby presented a two-day workshop for NICU professionals titled, “Interventions for High Risk Infants in the NICU and During the Transition Home,” presented at the University of Maryland Hospital, Baltimore, MD, October 16 & 17, 2008.

Joseph Bliss attended the 6th International Neonatal Hematology and Immunology Meeting on July 9-12 in
Boston, MA and gave a platform presentation abstract: “Phagocytosis and Oxidative Burst of Neonatal Neutrophils Confronted with Candida albicans and Candida parapsilosis.” Dr. Bliss presented at the MD-PhD seminar series at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY on October 27th. His talk was entitled “The Bench to the Bedside and Back - An Insider's View.”

Ronnessia Gaskins was selected to present her NIH R03 grant proposal, “Physical Activity as a Mediator between Prenatal Cocaine Exposure and Adolescent Obesity and Substance Abuse,” at an 8-day research course titled, “Physical Activity and Public Health.” This was a competitive selection with only 25 applicants accepted. This week-long conference was held in Park City, Utah 9/16-9/24/08.

Linda LaGasse was invited to present her research titled, “Impact of Prenatal Exposure to Methamphetamine Ages 0 to 3 Years at the National Drug Endangered Children Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, Oct 6-8.

Abbot Laptook attended the NICHD Neonatal Research Network Steering Committee Meeting on July 21-22, 2008 held at the Bolger Center, Potomac, MD. Dr. Laptook was invited to present Pediatric Grand Rounds entitled, “Therapeutic Hypothermia for Newborn Encephalopathy” at the University of Minnesota Children’s Hospital, Detroit, Michigan on September 17, 2008. Dr. Laptook was invited to present, “Hypothermia in Neonates” at the Hypothermia-From Threat to Cure Symposium at The New York Academy of Science, New York on September 19, 2008. Dr. Laptook attended the NICHD Neonatal Research Network Steering Committee Meeting held at the Bolger Center, Potomac, Maryland on October 15-17, 2008. Dr. Laptook was invited to present, “Hypothermia as a Therapeutic Intervention in Term Infants at Risk for Neonatal Encephalopathy: What are Future Goals and Strategies?” at the New Concepts in Neonatal Intensive Care: A Collaborative Conference, in New York on October 24, 2008.

Barry Lester, as Principal Investigator and Linda LaGasse, Co-Principal Investigator for the NIDA-sponsored R01 grant, “Methamphetamine Exposure and Child Development in New Zealand and USA,” traveled to Auckland, New Zealand to present at the conference, “The impact on children and families of parental drug use, particularly methamphetamine.”

Barry Lester presented, “The Vulnerable Infants Program (VIP)”. Linda LaGasse presented, “Prenatal Methamphetamine Exposure and Child Development in NZ and USA," which was video conference broadcasted across 6 sites in New Zealand. This conference was held at the Werry Center, Auckland, New Zealand on Wednesday July 9th. Dr. Lester was invited to present a Keynote talk at the Forum on Enhancing Services for Substance Exposed Newborns and Their Families. This forum is sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Children and Families. His title was, “Illegal Substance Exposure during Pregnancy: Impacts and Implications.” This presentation was held September 17th in Holyoke, MA. Dr. Lester was invited to speak at the 2nd Annual Latino Mental Health Conference, “Meeting the Mental Health needs of the Latino Families and Communities.” The title of his talk was, “Acculturation and Resilience in Latino Children with parental Cocaine Exposure.” This conference was held at the New York University’s School of Medicine on October 4th. Dr. Lester was invited to give two talks at the Gerber Center for Infant Development and Nutrition Lectureship on October 20th and 21st in Grand Rapids, MI. The first talk was titled, “Crying, Colic, and Parent Infant Mental Health,” held on Oct. 20th at the Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids, MI. The second talk was presented at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Neurodevelopmental Pediatric Grand Rounds titled, “Single Room NICU vs. Open bay NICU: What is Best for Babies,” held on October 21st.

William Oh attended a network meeting at the Bolger Center in Potomac, MD July 21-22, 2008.

James F. Padbury was presented the March of Dimes 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award at the Annual Signature Chefs Auction on September 18 at Belle Mer, Newport, RI. Dr. Padbury gave a talk on “The Science of Generations” at the Brown/IBM/Rhode Island Partnership meeting at Hawthorne Industry Solutions Lab, York, NY Sept 29-30, 2008. Dr. Padbury was Co-Chair of the 34th Annual Meeting of the New England Conference on Perinatal Research, Chatham, MA October 5-7. Dr. Padbury attended the March of Dimes Volunteer Leadership Conference in Houston, TX October 16-17. He was presented with the 2008 March of Dimes National Distinguished Volunteer Service Award for the Eastern Region. Dr. Padbury was elected as the Northeastern Region representative to the NIH-NCRR National Council of IDEAs for a four-year term. Dr. Padbury attended the National Council of the National Association of IDEAs Principal Investigators (NAIPI) meeting in Bethesda, MD on December 12, 2008. He gave a presentation on the Database and Communications Working Group.

Amy Salisbury was invited to present “Prenatal Antidepressant Exposure and Fetal Neurobehavioral Development,” at the West Virginia University’s Neuroscience Grand Rounds program on October 8th.

Rosemary Soave, Vulnerable Infants Program Director, presented at the 3rd National Conference on “Women:
Addition and Recovery: Inspiring Leadership, changing Lives.” This conference was held September 15-17 in Tampa, Florida. She presented her talk “Family Treatment Drug Court: Care Coordination through Recovery” on September 16th.


Betty Vohr was invited to attend the CDC- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) and Marion Downs Hearing Center (MDHC) meeting in Breckenridge, Colorado on June 9th “Accountability and EHDI Systems: Achieving Successful Outcomes – Strategies for Overcoming Obstacles”. She gave the following presentation: “Medical Home Initiative Perspective”. She also attended the MDHC Summer Symposium “Frontiers in Hearing – Beyond Newborn Hearing Screening” July 10-12th and gave the following presentation: “Rhode Island EHDI Update.” Dr. Vohr attended the Neonatal Network Meeting in Potomac, MD on July 21st and 22nd and gave a Network Follow-up update. Dr. Vohr presented the Hy Schuman Memorial Lecture entitled “Perinatal and Neonatal Predictors of Neurodevelopmental Outcomes of ELBW Infants” at Grand Rounds at the Bay State Medical Center Children’s Hospital, Springfield, Massachusetts on September 9th. Dr. Vohr gave a presentation at the Sigmund Stein Memorial Symposium entitled “Perinatal and Neonatal Predictors of Neurodevelopmental Outcomes of ELBW Infants” at the Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, New London, Connecticut on September 16th. On September 17th Dr. Vohr participated in a panel “The Issues of Standardization from Clinical Perspective” at the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing Stakeholder’s Meeting at the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Dr. Vohr was the John Curran Lecturer at the University of South Florida for their Grand Rounds at Tampa General Hospital on September 25th. Her presentation was entitled: “Neonatal and Environmental Predictors of Neurodevelopmental Outcome”. On September 26th Dr. Vohr presented at Grand Rounds at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida. The title of her presentation was “Brain Plasticity”. Dr. Betty Vohr was appointed as an advisor on the Subcommittee on Newborn Screening Guidelines for Premature and/or Sick Newborns by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. Dr. Vohr served as a Faculty Member at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and gave a presentation entitled “After Newborn Hearing Screening. The Importance of Timely Diagnosis and Intervention” in Boston, MA on October 11th. Dr. Vohr

On July 1, 2008 the following fellows began their fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine:

Melinda Caskey received an MD degree from the University of Texas, Medical Branch, Galveston, TX in 2003 and completed a pediatric residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX from 2003-2006.

Michael Hokenson received an MD degree from St. George’s University of Medicine in Grenada in 2004 and completed a pediatric residency at New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, NY from 2004-2007.

Nancy Tsai received an MD degree from Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA in 2005 and completed a pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital of Iowa, Iowa City, IA from 2005-2008.

Hala Chaaban was selected as the one fellow from District I to receive a stipend to support her attendance of the 2008 NCE Section on Perinatal Pediatrics (SoPPe) Fellows Program.

Women & Infants Hospital was awarded a $10.7 million dollar Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) for Perinatal Biology. James Padbury is the Program Director and Surendra Sharma is the Deputy Director. This renewal of their first COBRE award will support investigators at W&I and Brown University as they extend their research to studies of the molecular mechanisms of infant vulnerability to sepsis, the effects of adverse intrauterine life on gene expression and “fetal programming,” molecular and genetic studies to improve embryo implantation and a developmental approach to use of stem cells for cardiac repair and regeneration after

DISTRICT II / SERGIO G. GOLOMBECK

Children’s Hospital at Montefiore – Albert Einstein College of Medicine

The Regional Perinatal Centers at the Weiler Hospital Division of the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore – Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Jacobi Medical Center – North Bronx Health Network conducted a highly successful conference on Sudden Unexpected Infant Death on December 3, 2008. The conference highlighted the significant increase in young infant deaths due to unsafe sleep practices among NYC families and brought together perinatal health professionals, health officials and community members. Deborah Campbell and Jaime Fernandez were members of the conference Planning Committee and are co-leaders of the Bronx Perinatal Forum.
Sheri Nemerofsky was an invited speaker at The Hospital Nacional and Hospital del Niños in Panama City in September 2008. She updated the conference attendees on the controversies in management of a patent ductus arteriosus in the preterm baby and discussed survival data and outcomes for very low birth weight infants.

Congratulations to Christina Long, stationed at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Ft. Lewis, Washington, on her promotion to the rank of Major in the United States Army.

The Division of Neonatology and the Neonatal Services Programs within Montefiore Medical Center (Weiler Hospital Division, the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore and Montefiore North Division) was awarded the newest iteration of the March of Dimes NICU Family Support Program, that will allow it to provide access to MOD Family Support resources across Montefiore’s clinical sites and support the development of an integrated program of family support for parents of neonates and infants with complex health needs.

Congratulations to our colleague Suhas Nafday, who has been quite busy these past 6 months! He has joined the New York City Bureau Vital Services/Regional Perinatal Center Birth Data Quality Collaborative, along with Randi Wasserman-Hoffman and Joseph Schuman. He presented the data from the Joint NY State DOH Bureau of Women’s Services and NYS Association of Regional Perinatal Programs and Networks NICU benchmarking project on reducing Central line-Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI) at the recent GNYHA Quality Symposium, Changing Behavior: Sustainable Delivery of Quality Care (Joseph Schulman, PI). The poster presentation was selected for a “Symposium Quality Finalist Award”. He has also been selected by the Greater New York Hospital Association and the United Hospital Fund to be a fellow in their Clinical Quality Fellowship Program. Each fellow is required to complete a Quality Improvement Capstone Initiative at their facility with an interdisciplinary team of clinicians during the 15-month program.

Kudos and thanks to the Perinatal Section members who contributed to the recently published AAP Textbook of Pediatric Care: Deborah Campbell (associate editor and contributor), Judy Bernbaum (District III), Sonia O. Imaizumi (District III), Edith McCarthy, Peter M. Auld, E. Rebecca Pschirrer (District I), Joseph Vitterio (District I), Zuzanna Kubicka (District I), George Little (District I), Angel Rios, Joaquim Pinheiro, Upender Munshi, Karen Wood (District IV), Maj. Christina Long (District VIII), Harpreet Kaur, Viral Dave (District I), Jonathan Fanaroff (District V), Orna Rosen, Richard Schanler, Ruth Lawrence, Luc Brion (District VII), Suhas Nafday, and Enrique Ostrea (District V), Neil Alviedo, Felix Banadera, and Lilia De Jesus.

Jacobi Medical Center

New Faculty:

Yolanda Brown has just returned to the department after completing her Neonatology Fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital. Dr. Brown was previously a resident with us at Jacobi Medical Center. As research fellow at Harvard, she was the co-principal investigator of the ELGAN Nutrition and Growth Study. Dr. Brown is an attending physician in the Division of Neonatology at Jacobi as well as an Instructor of Clinical Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Angela Shtern will be joining the faculty in January of 2009 as an Attending Neonatologist. Dr. Shtern has spent the last three years as an attending neonatologist at the Long Island College Hospital. She completed a neonatal fellowship at The New York Presbyterian Hospital-Cornell. Dr Shtern is board certified in Neonatology.

Jaime Fernandez is an attending physician in the Division of Neonatology. He is co-director of the Jacobi Regional Perinatal Center and co-director of the Neonatal High-Risk Follow-up Clinic. Dr. Fernandez is board-certified in Neonatology and is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His areas of interest include neonatal safety, injury prevention, and the Shaken Baby Syndrome. He is active in the Bronx Regional Perinatal Forum and has been involved in the recent Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome and Breastfeeding Conference held at Jacobi.

Recent conferences hosted at the Jacobi Medical Center: Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome Conference sponsored by the Bronx Regional Perinatal Forum.


Upcoming conference at the Jacobi Medical Center: Dealing with Diverse Mental Health Issues in the NICU - February 4, 2009.

This conference will look at: Post-partum depression; Managing psychiatric medications during pregnancy and the postpartum period; perinatal bereavement; withdrawal of care; engaging mothers with mental health issues in a culture of stigma and fear; identification of available resources in the community; review of the most common lethal genetic abnormalities; preventing the tragedy of SIDS and Shaken Baby Syndrome. For more information please contact Jaime Fernandez at Jaime.Fernandez@nbhn.net.
Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center

The Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of NY- Presbyterian is pleased to announce that one of our NICU faculty, Vadim Ten, has been accepted for membership by the Society for Pediatric Research.

Mount Sinai Hospital

Research (new grants/studies): Ian Holzman (together with Joe Schulman from Cornell and Tim Stevens from Rochester) received a grant from the NY State DOH to further examine ways to decrease central line infections in neonates.

NYU

Recent and Upcoming Conferences/Meetings (sponsored by your program or network):

The NYU and Bellevue Hospital Hypothermia Program officially opened in August, 2008. The Program, under the Directorship of Elena Wachtel, is a multidisciplinary program with neurologists John Wells and Daniel Miles linked to follow-up of infants in the Neonatal Comprehensive Care Program. The Hypothermia Program is a member of the New York Consortium of Cooling Centers.

Applicants are now being accepted for 2009 summer’s Jack Cary Eichenbaum Neonatology Summer Research Scholars.

1st Annual Manhattan Regional Perinatal Forum Conference is planned for 2/28/2009 at the Bellevue Saul Farber Auditorium. The program focuses on education and prevention of obesity.

4th Annual Neonatal Nursing Conference is planned for June 26th a joint collaboration with NYU Neonatal Nursing Joan Cutrone, RN and Dr. Martha Caprio, Clinical Director of the Tisch RPC, has become a regional success in educating neonatal nurses in the tri-state area.

3rd Annual Health Students – Healthy Communities Conference is planned for September, 2009 and will be hosted by Manhattan Regional Perinatal Forum Committee on Education. Dr. Hendricks-Muñoz, Chair of the Committee, sponsored the program which is supported by a NYS DOH grant to improve the health of mothers and infants through partnerships with the Department of Education.

Karen Hendricks-Muñoz was invited to speak on “Barriers to Developmental Care” at the Faculté de Médecine des Saints-Pères, 2nd International Conference on Infant Development in Neonatal Intensive Care on December 12-13, 2008, in Paris, France.

Sean Bailey, 3rd year Neonatology Fellow, was invited to speak on NIRS and use in transfusions at the 1st International Neonatology Conference in November, 2008.

Research (new grants/studies):

Karen Hendricks-Muñoz was the recipient of funding from Jack’s Fund for the Neonatology Summer Scholars Program.

Dr. Hendricks-Muñoz, Chair of the RPC Forum subcommittee on Education was the recipient of a New York State Dept of Health Grant for implementing Generational Health Education for Teachers in Middle and High Schools. She was also the recipient of a 2-year New York State Department of Health ECRIP Award- “The effect of the specialized NICU environmental practice, Kangaroo Care, in acquisition of premature infant beneficial microbial colonization and outcome”.

Schneider Children's Hospital, North Shore-LIJ Health System

On January 7, 2009 the Schneider Children's Hospital NICU will be expanding into a new adjacent facility. There will be 24 new spacious, state of the art NICU beds and the “old” unit will serve as the semi ICU. The total bed capacity will be 68 beds.

Construction is well under way for an adjacent Women’s Hospital with a bridge connecting to the NICU. A 4 bedded Neonatal Stabilization Unit will be located in the middle of operating area for neonatal intensive care facilities with the first breath.

 Faculty Comings and Goings:

Lucy Pereira-Argenziano, a current 3rd year fellow, will be hired as a full time neonatal faculty member in July of 2009. Her interest is in quality improvement. She is going to be getting advanced training in quality methods, research, and data base management.

All staff of the Neonatal and Ob services has been trained and are employing TeamSTEPPS, a strategy to enhance performance and patient safety. It has been an extremely important useful and team building method of patient care.

State University of New York at Buffalo - Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo

Please congratulate Satyan Lakshminrusimha, who was invited to speak at this year’s AAP NRP meeting in Boston in October. He spoke about his work funded by the AAP NRP to study the “Effect of Oxygen
Concentration of Resuscitative Gas on Pulmonary Hemodynamics in Term Lambs.”

**University of Rochester – Division of Neonatology**

Faculty/Fellow Comings and Goings:

**Thomas Mariani**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Neonatology, came to us from the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He is a leader in defining regulatory networks involved in lung development and maturation which may be perturbed in diseased states. Tom is the Program Chair-elect of the Respiratory, Cellular and Molecular Biology Assembly of the ATS.

**Conference Report/Upcoming Conferences/Meetings**

(sponsored by your program or network):

*The 28th Annual Townsend Teaching Day* was held at Rochester General Hospital on April 8, 2008. **Ola D. Saugstad** was the keynote speaker. His topic was “Is Oxygen Important in Neonatal Resuscitation?”

*The 29th Annual Townsend Teaching Day* will be held on March 31, 2009. The meeting will honor **James W. Kendig**. The keynote speaker, **M. Jeffrey Maisels**, will discuss: “Neonatal Hyperbilirubinemia and Kernicterus: from Rh Disease to the Healthy Term Newborn.”

The Division of Neonatology sponsored the *Annual NYS Thruway Conference* at Strong Memorial Hospital on October 24, 2008. Approximately 65 physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and respiratory therapists from across upstate New York attended. In addition to basic science presentations, a variety of clinical topics were presented, including “Benchmarking Clinical Outcomes Among Upstate RPC NICUs” and “Body Cooling for Neuroprotection.”

Research (new grants/studies) - Grant Review:

**Kristin Scheible**, a neonatology fellow, received an NIH loan repayment program grant. Kristen is researching the basic science of the immune response to immunizations in newborns.

**Margaret Bulanowski**, a neonatology fellow, received a Medimmune grant for her Reach-out-and-Read research. This project is evaluating the effects of early exposure to reading on language development in premature infants.

**David Dean** received an NIH R21 research grant “Electroporation-mediated Pulmonary Gene Transfer for Acute Lung Injury” (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2013).

**Michael O’Reilly** received NIH R01 research grant “Effect of neonatal hyperoxia on alveolar development and infection” (December 1, 2008 – November 30, 2012).

**Jennifer Young** received a grant from the American Heart Association "Role of CCN1/Cyr61 in Lung Injury" (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2012).

Invited Presentations:

**Nirupama Laroia** spoke at the “International Conference on Recent Advances in Neonatal Care in March 2008 in New Delhi, India. Her topics were “Neonatal Seizures: a Continuing Dilemma” and “Post Discharge Nutrition and Follow up.” Dr Laroia also was invited to speak at the Indo-American Summit in Pediatrics 2008 Joint CME session of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatrics held at Jaipur, India in August 2008. Her talk was titled “Neonatal Seizures: A Review.”

**Michael O’Reilly** presented “New insights into how neonatal hyperoxia disrupts lung epithelial development and innate immunity,” on September 22, 2008 at Vermont Lung Center, The University of Vermont, in Burlington, VT. Dr. O’Reilly also spoke at The University of Chicago, Department of Medicine, Chicago, IL in October 2008, discussing “Neonatal hyperoxia as a susceptibility modifier of respiratory viral infections.”

**David Dean** was invited to present “Intracellular trafficking of plasmids,” at the Second Conference of Drug Delivery and Translation Research Focus on Gene Delivery in May 2008 at the Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Dean also spoke at the Gordon Research Conference on Bioelectrochemistry, Biddeford, ME, in July 2008 discussing, “Augmenting post electrotransfer of DNA to the nucleus: mechanisms and applications.” In October 2008, Dr. Dean was invited to speak at the Vascular Biology Center, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA, presenting “Pulmonary gene transfer” mechanisms and applications for acute lung injury,” at the Department of Surgery, SUNY Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, NY, discussing “Mechanisms and applications of non-viral gene delivery to the lungs and vasculature,” and last, Dr. Dean went to Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, where he spoke about “The cell biology of nonviral gene transfer.”

**Ruth Lawrence** was invited to speak at the Sociedad Argentina de Pediatría a member de la Asociación Latino Americana de Pediatría at the 11° Congreso Argentino de Pediatría Social - 6° Congreso Argentino de Lactancia Materna in October 2008. It was an opportunity to discuss growth charts, vitamin D and human milk for the premature. It was spring in Argentina and the hospitality was overwhelming.

**Sanjiv B. Amin** was promoted to Associate Professor of
Robert Swantz was appointed Co-Chair of the Faculty Development Taskforce of COMSEP for the next three years.

Nirupama Laroia became the Committee Chair for India Giani Fund, under the International Health Section of the AAP. The fund sponsors two scholars from India to attend the “Hot Topics in Neonatology” and the Pediatric Academic Society Meetings each year, and a 2-week observership in Neonatology units across the country. The fund has so far successfully sponsored 8 scholars.

Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center/New York Medical College

CONFERENCE REPORT/ UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS:

Heather Brumberg and Cheryl Hunter-Grant, both of the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network in partnership with AAP Chapter 3 received an AAP Genetics Visiting Professorship award. The Genetics Visiting Professorship is a competitive award of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Newborn Screening Program, and funded through a joint public/private partnership between the Maternal and Child Health Bureau/Health Resources and Services Administration, the National Coordinating Center for the Regional Genetics and Newborn Screening Service Collaboratives, housed at the American College of Medical Genetics, and the AAP. As part of the project, Pediatric Grand Rounds will be held around the Hudson Valley Region. Dr. David Kronn, will serve as the Genetics Visiting Professor and will deliver the lecture “Advances in Newborn Screening.” For more information visit www.LHVPN.net/newbornscreening or call 914-493-6435.

The 7th Annual Hudson Valley Regional Perinatal Forum: Obesity, Preconception Health, Pregnancy and Lactation: The Impact of Bariatric Surgery, Nutrition and Exercise, co-chaired by The Regional Perinatal Center at Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital/Westchester Medical Center, the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network, and Maternal Infants Services Network, was November 12th, 2008, had over 360 attendees. The keynote speakers were David A. Kessler, Former Commissioner of the US FDA and Jon R. Cohen, Senior Advisor to NY State Governor David A. Paterson. Guest speakers included: Drs. James F. Smith, Jr. (Chief, Perinatal Medicine, Westchester Medical Center), Diane M. Ashton, Deputy Medical Director of the March of Dimes, Joseph Wax, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Vermont College of Medicine, Maine Medical Center, Ashutosh Kaul, Director of Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, Westchester Medical Center, and a panel of Hudson Valley County Health Commissioners and Public Health Directors.

Sergio Golombek was an invited speaker at the 5th Congress of SIBEN (Society of Iberoamerican Neonatology) in Mar del Plata, Argentina. He presented the results of the First SIBEN Clinical Consensus on PDA, and chaired the Second Clinical Consensus of Hemodynamic Management of the Newborn together with Drs. Augusto Sola and Diana Fariña. He was also a speaker at the 5th Pan-American Conference of Neonatology in Cartagena, Colombia, where he talked about PDA, Adrenal Insufficiency and Thyroid in the Preterm Infant; and at NEO 2008: Controversies in Neonatology, held in Mexico City, Mexico, where he spoke on “Management strategies for PPHN,” “What should we do with THOP?” and “What can we learn from Medical Errors?”

Lance Parton received an AAAP Special Achievement Award for “Distinguished service and dedication to the missions and goals of the Academy,” in recognition for all his work at the New York Chapter 3.

Sergio Golombek was appointed as Chairperson of the Institutional Review Board of New York Medical College.

The March of Dimes Mission Triangle Award was accepted by Edmund F. La Gamma on behalf of The Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center-New York Medical College a Regional Level IV NICU with a family-centered state of the art facility serving 23,000 births of the Lower Hudson Valley. It recognizes significant activities in advancing the mission of the March of Dimes including: 1) an early career Basil O’Connor Basic Research Award, 2) his membership for nearly 10 years as part of the Northern Metro Division Board of Directors and Program Services Committee, 3) serving as keynote speaker at the fourth annual Franklin D. Roosevelt Student Convocation in Hyde Park, 4) serving as a member of the New York State Chapter Prematurity Committee and 5) in accepting the Honorary Hospital Chair for the March for Babies 2009.

DISTRICT III / ENDLA ANDAY

DELWARE

Christiana Hospital

Stephen Pearlman will give a lecture on January 28th, on the “Late Preterm Infant” for Pediatric-OB Grand Rounds at York Hospital. On January 30th, he is giving a seminar on Neonatal Billing Practices to the Maryland Chapter of the AAP.
NEW JERSEY

MidAtlantic Neonatology Associates (MANA) and Goryeb Children’s Hospital in Morristown

Larry Skolnick announces that MidAtlantic Neonatology Associates and the Goryeb Children’s Hospital will be sponsoring the second annual “New Jersey Forum in Neonatology” conference in Morristown, New Jersey on June 11-12, 2009. Invited speakers include Ron Clyman, Pablo Sanchez and Betty Vohr. For more information contact Ms. Pat Poland at: patricia.poland@atlantichealth.org.

UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick

Surasak Puvabanditsin was appointed Clinical Director of the NICU at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital/Bristol-Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital.

On September 18th, Barry Weinberger and Barbara Ostfeld in collaboration with the SIDS Center of New Jersey, the Central New Jersey Maternal and Child Health Consortium, the March of Dimes, and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, presented a health fair “Improving Pregnancies, Birth Outcomes and Infant, Child and Family Health.” The project was part of Minority and Multicultural Health Month.

Thomas Hegyi and Barbara Ostfeld have been appointed to co-chair the Research and Evidence-Based Interventions workgroup of the Social Equity in Birth Outcomes Project, a collaborative initiative of the N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services, the March of Dimes, and the Maternal and Child Health Consortia. The project addresses racial disparities in birth outcomes in New Jersey.

Barry Weinberger and Anna Vetrano received a grant from the New Jersey Department of Health to study the prenatal effects of phthalates, pesticides, perchlorate, and other toxins in high-risk mothers.

On November 17, the N.J. Dept. of Health and Senior Services established a severe neonatal jaundice registry, spearheaded by Thomas Hegyi. Clinical laboratories will be required to report severe hyperbilirubinemia, and the data used for public health research, needs assessment and professional and lay educational initiatives regarding risks for kernicterus.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

The Division of Neonatology at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia was ranked #1 in Neonatal Care in the 2008 by Parent Magazine and the “Best Hospital in the Nation for Children.”

John Chuo joined the Penn Faculty as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in July. Dr. Chuo has been appointed the Quality Informatics Officer for the Division of Neonatology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Pediatric Patient Safety Liaison at the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

Dr. Chuo was awarded an internal grant for his study of “Medical Errors and Prevention”.

Phyllis Dennergy was invited to serve as a Reviewer for the 2009 NIH Director's Pioneer Awards. She has also been appointed Associate Editor of Pediatrics.

Dr. Dennergy has been appointed to the University of Pennsylvania Medical School’s Committee on Appointments and Promotions. She was also selected as America’s Leading Doctor in Black Enterprise Magazine.

Dr. Dennergy presented the following lectures: “Avons-nous abandoné les anciens prématurés?” (Have we forgotten the premie graduate?) at Journée D’Actualités en Néonatologie (JALON 2008), Nancy, France.

“Heme Oxygenase-1 – A Multifaceted Enzyme,” 9th International Congress on Cell Biology (ICCB), Seoul, Korea; and “Medical Home for the Premature,” American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference, Boston, MA.

Jeffrey Gerdes has been appointed the Associate Chair in the Department of Pediatrics and the Chief Medical officer for Practice Development at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Harry Ischiropoulos was elected President of the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine.

Haresh Kirpalani has been accepted for membership in the American Pediatric Societies. He was also appointed a member of the NHLBI Advisory Committee on Pediatric Research into Blood and Blood Transfusions.

Janet Lioy coordinated the 4th Annual Advances in Neonatal Care Course held at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia with many nationally renowned speakers.

Dr. Lioy received the 2008 Mead Johnson Academic Clinician Community Outreach Award. This award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions in the field of Neonatal Outreach in the Community.

Barbara Schmidt has been accepted for membership in
the American Pediatric Societies.

**Jason Stoller** was promoted to Assistant Professor with Tenure. He also became Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. **Dr. Stoller** was awarded an internal grant for his study of “Postnatal Function of Tbx1 in DiGeorge Syndrome.”

**Hallam Hurt** presented a lecture entitled “Do gestational cocaine exposure and/or socioeconomic status affect child neurocognitive outcome?” at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Symposium in San Juan Puerto Rico.

**Recent publications:**


**Fellowship News:**

**Rimi Sen** successfully completed fellowship training in Neonatology on December 31, 2008. She has joined the Neonatology faculty as an Assistant Professor at the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts University.

**Lindsay Johnston** received the Young Investigators Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**Clyde Wright** successfully competed for the Marshall Klaus Fellows Research Award from the Perinatal Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**Elise Lavery** was awarded the Mary E. Groff Fellowship in Clinical Research Methods.

**Sara DeMauro** is the recipient of the National Resuscitation Program Investigator Award.

**St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children**

**Jane McGowan** was an invited speaker at the NIH-sponsored Workshop on September 8-9 held in Bethesda.

**Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos**, was the keynote speaker for the Annual Billy F. Andrews, MD Lecture at the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY. Her topic was “Oxygen: Too Much or Too Little.”

The 12th Annual “A Day with the Newborn” was organized by **Dr. Delivoria-Papadopoulos** to be held January 23rd at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. Guest speakers include:

**Istvan Seri**, “Cardiovascular Physiology of Postnatal Transition in the VLBW Neonate: From Blood Pressure and Systemic Blood Flow to Oxygen Delivery”

**Jean-Michel Hascoet**, “High Frequency Ventilatory Oscillations: Do We Need It?”

**Carlo Bellieni**, “Overcoming Pain of the Newborn”

**Jeanette Pleasure**, “The Whey and Why of Breast Milk”

**Jonathan Heilizcr**, “Calcium Metabolism: Transition from Fetus to Infant”

**Sharon Weil-Chalker**, “Patent Ductus Arteriosus Controversies: An Open and Shut Case?”


**Karen Fairchild**, “Hypothermia: Bench to Bedside and Back”

**Endla Anday** is the Program Chair of the Perinatal Section at the AAP NCE meeting in Washington, DC to be held October 16-19. It promises to be an exciting program with the topic for the Saturday Plenary state-of-the-art lecture series, “**Pathophysiology of Inflammatory Mediators and Origin of Neonatal Disease: Curiosity, Cause or Consequence.**” Speakers for this session will include: Roberto Romero, Rashmin Savani, Richard Polin, Kristi Watterberg and David Stevenson. There will be a joint session with Pediatric Surgery on Sunday with the focus on necrotizing enterocolitis and will feature the following speakers: David Adamkin, Michael Caplan, Edward Barksdale, Brad Warner and Lawrence Moss. Details of the Program will follow shortly after the April Perinatal Workshop meeting in Arizona, but save the date NOW, please.

Congratulations are in order for **Heather French** who is the proud mother for a second time with the addition of Finn to the family. His big brother, Liam, is ecstatic that the newcomer is a boy!

**DISTRICT IV / WILLIAM WALSH**

**KENTUCKY**

**Louisville Medical Center**

**David Adamkin** gave numerous presentations, in particular, two memorial lectureships:


**Dr. Adamkin** published, with J. Gadzinowski, “A Guide for Nutrition in Premature Infants along with a Manual and Cardin-Algorithms” for the Polish Academy of Science, Karol Marcinkowski University School of Medicine, Poznan, Poland. This is their first ever textbook on Preterm Nutrition.

**Dr. Adamkin’s** newest book, “**Nutritional Strategies for Very Low Birth Weight Infants**,” Editors, Bhatia J,
Martin G and Mabel D, is currently in production with Cambridge University Press.

NORTH CAROLINA

Moses Cone Health System and the Women's Hospital of Greensboro

Level IIb NICU:

J. Laurence Ransom stepped down from his role as medical director of the NICU and nurseries at that hospital after 20 years in that position. John Wimmer is now in that role. The neonatal group has separated from being hospital employees and has formed Piedmont Neonatology PC, now contracting with the hospital in the same role as before. They continue to participate in the expanded VON database, the VON and NC databases on Hypothermia and the developing NC collaborative database thru VON. They have linked with UNC-Chapel Hill for surgical services for the general pediatric community. Likewise, UNC-Chapel Hill now provides our on-site pediatric and neonatal Cardiology services. MFM are provided through Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem.

UNC related news:

On January 1st, UNC will join the Neonatal Research Network as a satellite site with Duke. Matthew M. Laughon is the site PI at UNC, Diane Marshall is the follow-up PI, Gennie Bose is the research coordinator, and Janice Wereszczak is the follow-up coordinator.

Ron Goldberg is the PI at Duke and Ricki Goldstein is the follow-up PI at Duke.

TENNESSEE

Vanderbilt

Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care (TIPQC): In October 2008, the state of TN approved funding through the Governor’s Office of Children’s Care Coordination for the launch of TIPQC. Much has been accomplished in the first few months of operations, including hiring of a full time project manager, Brenda Barker, MEd, and a part time quality consultant, M. K. Key, PhD. Peter Grubb (Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital) will serve as TIPQC Medical Director. TIPQC has completed a survey of all 27 NICUs in the state and helped register 100% of NICUs in Tennessee in the AAP Perinatal Section NICU Directory. TIPQC leadership participated in the Group Leaders Meeting at the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) Annual Meeting (12/08) where they presented a poster at the Learning Fair and in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Conference (12/08) in Nashville. A TIPQC website has been launched at www.TIPQC.org. The second Annual TIPQC Community Forum will be held on March 5-6, 2009 at the Franklin Cool Springs Marriott featuring speakers Diane Frndak, PhD, MBA, Vice President of Organizational Excellence, West Penn Allegheny Health System, Paul Miles, Senior VP for Quality and Maintenance of Certification, American Board of Pediatrics and Dan Ellsbury, Director, Continuous Quality Improvement, Pediatric Medical Group. Dr. Ellsbury will be leading several workshops on CQI methodology and CQI project implementation.

The Vanderbilt University Division of Neonatology hosted its Fourteenth Annual Neonatology Symposium: Advances and Controversies in Neonatal Medicine on November 7-8, 2008 in Nashville, TN. Organized by Jayant Shenai, the well-attended symposium featured a distinguished faculty, including Avery Fanaroff (Case Western/ Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital), John Tyson (University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston), Scott Denne (Indiana University School of Medicine), Henri Ford (Children’s Hospital Los Angeles) and John Hartline (Editor NeoReviewsPlus), as well as Vanderbilt faculty Marta Hernanz-Schulman (Pediatric Radiology), Thomas Doyle (Pediatric Cardiology), Franco Recchia (Pediatric Ophthalmology), Donna Daily (Neonatal Follow-up), and Bill Walsh, Lance Prince, Steven McElroy, and Mario Rojas (Neonatology). Please plan to join us for the Fifteenth Annual Neonatology Symposium scheduled for November 6-7, 2009 in Nashville, TN.

The Vanderbilt University Division of Neonatology was honored to have as recent visiting professors, Mike O’Shea, Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of Neonatology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and F. Sessions Cole III, Professor of Pediatrics, Cell Biology and Physiology, Vice Chairman, Department of Pediatrics and Director, Division of Newborn Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Children’s Health, and Chief Medical Officer, St. Louis Children’s Hospital.

Congratulations go to the following Vanderbilt Neonatology Faculty and Fellows for their accomplishments, awards, and honors:

Mario Rojas was elected to the Society for Pediatric Research.

Judy Aschner and Lance Prince were elected to membership in the Perinatal Research Society.

Bill Walsh was the recipient of the Amos Christie Award for Teaching. Dr. Walsh visited Madagascar and learned
the major cause of infant mortality was asphyxia secondary to the inability to perform c-sections throughout the majority of the country.

**Hendrik Weitkamp** is the recipient of a District IV grant to attend the AAP Perinatal Section Workshop in Scottsdale next April.

**Dr. Weitkamp** received a Vanderbilt Digestive Disease Research Center (DDRC) Pilot and Feasibility grant and was named a DDRC Young Investigator.

**Nathalie Maitre** is the recipient of a Hazinski-Turner research award.

Vanderbilt Neonatology Faculty Visiting Professorships and invited presentations at regional, national or international conferences:

- **Judy Aschner** was visiting professor at Texas Children’s Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX she delivered the Reba Michels Hill Memorial Lectureship on “Novel Therapies for Pulmonary Hypertension”
- **Judy Aschner** was invited faculty at the 20th Annual NICHD Aspen Conference, gave a talk on “Keys to Success in Academics: Juggling Research, Clinical Work and Family”
- **Judy Aschner** was an invited speaker at the American Academy of Pediatrics NCE Perinatal Section Meeting in Boston where she gave a talk on “Common but Unproven Therapies for PPHN”
- **Judy Aschner** was a speaker at the 16th Annual Newborn and Pediatric Symposium in Louisville,
- **Judy Aschner** was faculty in an IPOKraTES conference in Padova, Italy where she gave 4 lectures related to respiratory management in the newborn. She was also an invited speaker at the Union of European Neonatal-Perinatal Societies in Rome, Italy on 11/17-11/19/2008 where she presented “Battling BPD: New Therapies for the Next Decade”
- **Judy Aschner** was invited faculty at Hot Topics in Neonatology where she gave a lecture on “Sodium Bicarbonate: Basically Useless Therapy”
- **Brian Carter** was the 2nd Annual Charlie Hartmann Visiting Professor and Lecturer on Pediatric Palliative Care at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York and the Weill-Cornell Medical College.
- **Brian Carter** was the Pediatric keynote speaker at the 17th International Congress on Palliative Care in Montreal in September.

- **Candice Fike** was invited as a distinguished visiting scientist by the Center for Cardiovascular Sciences at Albany Medical College where she gave a talk entitled “Chronic hypoxia induced pulmonary hypertension in the newborn: In search of the right rescue package”. She also gave a talk to the Division of Neonatology entitled “There is a new BPD, are we missing a new pulmonary hypertension?”
- **Jay Shenai** gave the S. Gorham Babson Eleventh Annual Lecture at Oregon Health Science University in Portland, OR. He spoke on Limits of Viability: Successes and Challenges. He also presented “Vitamin A and Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia in Preterm Infants” at the Oregon Neonatologists Research Seminar.
- **Jay Shenai** was invited faculty at Professional Day of The Compassionate Friends Annual Meeting: It Takes A Village in Nashville, TN. His topic was “Delivering Bad News to Parents.”

**VIRGINIA**

Virginia Beach - Community - Neonatology: Symposium on “Influenza virus: pre- and post-natal risk of infection, benefits and risk of vaccination, economic burden and practice recommendations” was held on September 18, 2008 with the main speaker, Jon S. Abramson, Professor and Chair, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

**Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center**

Immediate past-Chair, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the CDC. The event was well attended by the obstetricians, pediatricians, neonatologists, family practitioners and public health officers in the Virginia Beach city. This is a bi-annual event providing community forum to discuss perinatal topics pertinent to the community of Virginia Beach. The spring symposium will be on March 2, 2009 on the topic of “The impact of obesity on the mother-fetus, infant, children and community.”

**DISTRICT VI / HOWARD KILBRIDE**

**ILLINOIS**

**SAVE THE DATE**: Second Annual District VI Perinatal Pediatrics Meeting is to be held at the Wyndham Hotel, 633 North St. Clair Street, Chicago, Illinois, on September 18-19, 2009. Watch for details!
**Northwestern University at Chicago**

The Annual Midwest Society for Pediatric Research Scientific Meeting, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Society, will be held at Northwestern University School of Medicine campus in Chicago on October 7-9, 2009.

**Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, Illinois**

Daniel Batton assumed the position of Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Neonatology at SIU School of Medicine and Director of Newborn Services at St. John’s Children’s Hospital in July 2008. Dr. Batton also serves as Co-Director of South Central Illinois Perinatal Center that is located at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital. He was previously the Director of Neonatology at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan for 21 years and a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Wayne State University.

Also in July, Munish Kumar joined the SIU School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. Dr. Kumar completed his fellowship training in neonatology at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County.

Beau Batton has joined the SIU School of Medicine faculty as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. Dr. Beau Batton did his fellowship training in neonatology at Rainbow Babies Hospital and Case Western University. He participates in a NICHD study on cardiovascular stability in preterm infants.

Michael Sherman was recently awarded a NIH grant entitled “Lactoferrin Enhances Growth and Reduces Nosocomial Infection in Preterm Infants.” At the August 2008 NICHD Conference on Neonatal Infections, Dr. Sherman presented a lecture entitled "Beyond Fructo-oligosaccharides and Galacto-oligosaccharides: New Concepts of Prebiotics."

**IOWA**

**University of Iowa Children’s Hospital and Carver College of Medicine**

Michael Acarregui and John Dagle received the “Iowa Hospital Heroes Award” presented by the Iowa Hospital Association for their efforts in caring for an outborn infant during a winter storm.

Dr. Acarregui was recently selected as a member of the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS.

Glenda Rabe recently joined the faculty at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital. Dr. Rabe received her pediatric and neonatal-perinatal medicine training at the University of Iowa.

Ram Niwas also joined the faculty at the University of Iowa, effective February 2009, working with two other faculty members at Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, IA, a level II+ center.

Tarah Colaizy received a K23 Award from the NIH for work focusing on long-term benefits of using banked donor breast milk compared to formula.

**KANSAS**

**Wesley Medical Center, Wichita**

Barry Bloom has assumed the position of Professor and Interim Chairman, Department of Pediatrics KU School of Medicine-Wichita. Dr. Bloom also continues his role as Director of the NICU.

**MINNESOTA**

**Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota**

Mark Bergeron completed fellowship training in neonatal-perinatal medicine and received his Master of Public Health degree in Maternal and Child Health from the University of Minnesota in July. Dr. Bergeron joined Associates in Newborn Medicine and is on staff at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota in St. Paul.

Andrea Lampland, Jill Therien, and Mark Bergeron, on staff at Children's Hospitals & Clinics in St. Paul, each has been appointed Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School in the Department of Pediatrics.

**University of Minnesota Children's Hospital**

Tom George assumed the role of Director of the University of Minnesota Children’s Hospital from Ted Thompson, who stepped down on January 1, 2009. Dr. George is also the Associate Division Head for clinical and educational matters.

**MISSOURI**

**Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Kansas City**

William Truog received the Founder Award at the 2008 meeting of the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research. The Founder Award is the highest award given by the MWSPR for career achievement in mentoring junior faculty.

Howard Kilbride assumed the role of President of the MWSPR for 2009.

**Cox Health, Springfield**

Joseph Eccher assumed the role of director of the NICU at Cox Health, replacing Nancy Ceaser in January 2008.
Saint Louis University

The Illinois Area Perinatal Collaborative was formed in 2008. The group had a preliminary meeting in Chicago coinciding with the District VI Neonatology Meeting in September 2008 and the first full IAPC meeting on November 17 with all the ten perinatal centers participating at the Northwestern University Medical Center Campus in Chicago. Organizing members of the IAPC are Patricia Ittmann, Praveen Kumar, Dennis Crouse, and Akihiko Nougchi.

NEBRASKA

Nebraska Medical Center

The NICU at the University of Nebraska Medical Center was chosen to receive the institution's 2008 Quality Award for work improving nutritional outcomes of ELBW infants. The team was led by Ann Anderson Berry, with the help of Terry Zach, David Bolam, Hal Kaftan, and Garth Fletcher. This Nebraska Medical Center Award is given to one department each year which has done exceptional work in the area of quality improvement. The NICU work focused on several practice modifications in nutrition and feeding management which significantly lowered the number of ELBW infants discharged at less than the 10th percentile, decreased time to initiation of feeds, and time to full feeds. Some of the results of this work will be presented at PAS meetings in 2009.

TEXAS

Baylor College of Medicine

Saify Abbasi joined the Section of Neonatology in August 2008 as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. He completed his fellowship in neonatology at University of Louisville in Louisville, KY.

Steven Abrams was appointed to the Institute of Medicine’s “Dietary Reference Intakes for Vitamin D and Calcium” panel to establish dietary reference intake for vitamin D and calcium.

Diane Anderson was a Singhealth Talent Development Fund Overseas Expert – Neonatal Nutrition Update Practicum KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Singapore from December 15-18, 2008. She received a Leadership in Maternal Child Health Nutrition Training Grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Principal Director, 7/1/2008-6/30/2013.

Jennifer L. Arnold joined the Section of Neonatology in October 2008 as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and Medical Director of the new Simulation Center at Texas Children’s Hospital.

Xanthi Couroucli participated in the First International Congress and Academic Olympics in Rome, Italy in November 2008. She presented her research in “Prevention of experimental retinopathy of prematurity by vitamin A in the newborn rat model” to the United European Neonatal and Perinatal Society. Dr. Couroucli was awarded a grant by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for her research in “Prevention of Hyperoxia-induced Retinopathy Abnormal Neovascularization in the Newborn Rat by Retinoic Acid and Vitamin A.”

Eric Eichenwald participated in the Advanced Improvement Methods Training Program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. He was also a selected team member for the first Baylor College of Medicine Leadership Institute. This program fosters teamwork throughout the College and provides a strong support network for continued leadership excellence. In addition, Dr. Eichenwald was the AAP Perinatal Section Rep at the NICHD Conference on “Re-Evaluation of Electronic Fetal Monitoring.”

DISTRICT VII / ROBERT CASTRO

The AAP District VII Perinatal Section met on February 22, 2008 at the Hotel InterContinentnal in New Orleans, LA in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Southern Society of Pediatric Research (SSPR). This meeting was entitled the Red Hot “Chili” Topics VI Symposium. The topic for this dinner symposium was “Neonatal Acute and Chronic Lung Disorders” and the featured speakers were Drs. Robert Castro and Steve R. Seidner from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The next Annual AAP Perinatal Section, District VII Red Hot “Chili” Topics VII Symposium is scheduled for February 13, 2009, again in conjunction with the Southern Society of Pediatric Research Meeting at the Hotel InterContinental in New Orleans, LA. The topic will be “Pulmonary Immune Responses and Altering Infectious Pathogenesis (for the better).” The featured speakers will be Drs. Stephanie A. Cormier (LSU Health Science Center) and Margarita M. Vasquez (Univ TX HSC San Antonio).

Kirsten Kienstra received an American Academy of Pediatrics 2008 Neonatal Resuscitation Program Research Grant, “Acute and Long-term Effects of Newborn Resuscitation with 100% Oxygen on Bone Marrow Function and Malignant Transformation.” Dr. Kienstra also received an American Heart Association South
Central Affiliate Beginning Grant-in-Aid, “Impact of Hyperoxia on Bone Marrow Blood Vessels.”

Melissa Klitzman joined the Section of Neonatology in August 2008 as a Hospitalist and Clinical Instructor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. She moved from Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL.

Bhagavatula Moorthy reviewed grants for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Superfund Program in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina in September 2008. He is a member of the National Institutes of Health’s XNDA study section. Dr. Moorthy was an invited speaker at the International Conference on Translational Pharmacology in New Delhi in December 2008.

Vinita Nair joined the Section of Neonatology in August 2008 as a Hospitalist and Clinical Instructor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. She moved from Albany Medical College in Albany, NY.

Mohan Pammi Venkatesh received a Child Health Career Development Award for his research on “Quorum sensing in polymicrobial infections of Candida and Staphylococci.”

Ashishkumar Patel, fellow in Neonatology at Baylor College of Medicine, was awarded a 2008-2009 American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Perinatal Pediatrics Travel Award Grant.

Frank Placencia joined the Section of Neonatology in July 2008 as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. He completed his fellowship in neonatology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX.

Stefanie Rogers, fellow in Neonatology at Baylor College of Medicine, was awarded a 2008-09 American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Perinatal Medicine Travel Award Grant in recognition of her randomized study of human milk based vs bovine based nutrition in very low birth weight preterm infants. While at the meeting, Dr. Rogers received a NRP Young Investigator Award in support of her project. She gained further recognition by the AAP as one of the recipients of the 2008-2009 Klaus Perinatal Research Award in support of her primary research project examining the Vitamin D status of Hispanic and Caucasian infants.

Michael E. Speer was a visiting Professor at the University of Ireland in Galway in December 2008.

Binoy Shivanna, fellow in Neonatology at Baylor College of Medicine, was awarded the 2008-2009 Advancing Newborn Medical Fellowship Grant sponsored by Ikaria.


Driscoll Children Hospital – Corpus Christi

Patricia Ramsay, Medical Director, Neonatology, was recently awarded the first ever 2008 Perinatal Physician Excellence Award by the March of Dimes, Texas Chapter.

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Contrary to popular opinion the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Division of Neonatal Medicine continues to be hard at work taking care of the newborn infants of Texas. The Newborn Service opened up the 2nd week of October after Hurricane Ike had devastated the Island and has taken care of over 1,500 births since then. The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit opened up about 1 week after the Newborn Nursery opened and we are back up to a consistent census of 30-40 babies. Many thanks to the hospitals in Austin and San Antonio who took the 50 babies that we evacuated out of the hospital just prior to Ike. Also thanks to UT Houston and TCH for helping us out with surgical and cardiac cases we have had to transfer out since the storm.

Several changes have taken place in the neonatology division personnel. Although Dr. Joan Richardson continues to be the Division Chief, she has the added responsibility of being the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics now. Mike Malloy, Karen Shattuck, Cara Geary, and Sunil Jain continue as the backbone of the Neonatology Service. Susan Keeney, is taking, hopefully, a temporary leave of absence and will be moving to Texarkana to develop the Neonatology Service at St. Michael's. Our 3 fellows continue their education in the nurseries and developing their clinical research skills. Thus, the UTMB Division of Neonatology continues to work for the health of Texas. Those folks reading this and living in Texas, please continue to lobby your state and national legislative representatives to help.

University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio

Robert Castro was selected to be a recipient of the 2009 UTHSCSA Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Cynthia Blanco was selected as a finalist for the Young Investigator Award for the 2009 Southern Society for Pediatric Research.

Rajam Ramamurthy was appointed by the AMA to the
ECFMG Board of Trustees.

**Alice Gong** was elected Chair of the Texas Medical Association Maternal/Child Health.

**Steven Seidner**, Chief, Division of Neonatology, coordinated the Nurse-Family Partnership with University Health System. $1.1 million was awarded per year for intensive care management for 200 first time pregnant women and their infants up to the age of 2 years.

**Amy Fowler**, 1st year neonatal fellow, was one of five recipients in the U.S. to receive a research grant awarded by MedImmune. Her project is examining the interactions of genetic and environmental influences on growth, motor, cognitive, behavioral, and language development of premature infants.

Through the Perinatal Quality Improvement Panel of the CPQCC, several quality improvement collaborative projects are underway. **Paul Sharek** from Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital has been leading the Panel through a transition to an IHI quality improvement collaborative model. The first collaborative under this transition, Hospital Acquired Infection, is coming to completion in March of 2009. The 2nd collaborative will be on Breast Feeding in the NICU and will be part of a series on nutrition of the preterm infant to be offered over the next 2 years.

The next annual CPQCC workshop will be held on March 4, 2009 at the Coronado Marriott Resort, Coronado, CA, in conjunction with the CAN/ District IX Annual Conference in San Diego. The objectives of the workshop will be to provide up-to-date summaries of CPQCC activities and to teach state-of-the-art QI techniques to NICU teams, managers and directors. The workshop will be open to the public. Website: [http://www.cpqcc.org](http://www.cpqcc.org)

**CMQCC**
The California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), the quality improvement collaborative aimed at California’s maternity care hospitals has had much activity. The CMQCC is led by **Elliott Main** of California Pacific Medical Center and **Debra Bingham**, MS, RN, CNS. They have added **Christine Morton**, PhD to be the project Manager of the California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review and the Local Assistance for Maternal Health (LAMH) Projects which are designed to promote collaboration between hospitals and local health jurisdictions in their efforts to decrease maternal morbidity and mortality throughout California. CMQCC work has previously identified an unexpectedly high rate of maternal mortality due to hemorrhage, and this will be the focus of the Los Angeles County LAMH project.

Website: [http://www.cmqcc.org](http://www.cmqcc.org)

**California Association of Neonatologists (CAN).**
CAN and District IX of the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics are cosponsoring the 15th Annual Conference, Current Topics and Controversies in Perinatal and Neonatal Medicine in San Diego, Mar 5-7, 2009, at the...
Coronado Marriott Resort. The program will include presentations on Metabolic Challenges, NICU Environment, Fatigue and Burnout in Neonatology and the role of consultants in the NICU. This conference provides a perfect combination of education and a beautiful venue and is open to all Neonatologists and Neonatal healthcare providers.

CAN and District IX will also will host the 5th annual workshop for neonatology fellows, “Life after Fellowship: Exploring career opportunities and Practical Considerations for New Neonatologists” on March 4, 2009, 8:15am to 5pm. Coronado Marriott Resort, Coronado, CA. This event is being organized by Andrew Hopper, Chris Retajczyk, and Tina Leone. Website: http://www.canneo.org

California Premature Health Coalition.
The newly organized California Premature Health Coalition was created to bring together the broad array of groups and individuals working on prematurity in California. Its two primary goals are to help reduce the rate of prematurity in the State and to improve the outcomes for children who are born prematurely. Many organizations dedicated to reducing prematurity and neonatology leaders across the state are involved in the coalition. The current priority projects are:

- Conducting a Gap Analysis Project to understand the current state of affairs of prematurity in California and to make strategic policy, program and action plan recommendations.
- Hosting a Prematurity Summit in the spring of 2009 to bring together leaders in the field and set a course of action.
- Conducting NICU hospital Policymaker Tours to increase awareness of the organizational priorities.
- Developing a website on prematurity.

District IX is currently at a prematurity rate of 10.7%, accounting for more than 56,000 premature infants born annually. The work of the Coalition will be vital to making meaningful reductions in this prevalence.

Stanford University

Ron Ariagno, Professor of Pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine became Emeritus (Active) May 1, 2008. He continues full time at Stanford but with a new job profile. He will continue full time as faculty in the Division of Neonatal and Developmental Medicine but will be working 55% for the School of Medicine. He has been selected to be one of the new faculty in the Practice of Medicine Program and will continue as Institutional Review Board (IRB) Chair of Panel for protection of human subjects in research and will be the first faculty Academic Secretary for the Medical School Faculty Senate. He finished his last neonatal intensive care rotation in May and will be attending primarily in the intermediate intensive care unit which does not require night call. He plans to work with Lou Halamek in the Center for Advanced Pediatric Education (CAPE) as instructor in Neonatal Resuscitation Simulation Program. He was recently appointed to be “Of Counsel” for the District IX AAP Section on Perinatal Pediatrics (SOPP) in California. He is currently writing the history of the California Association of Neonatologists and District IX AAP California SOPP, which has a unique 15 year history as an organization/collaboration, with David Stevenson, Dilip Bhatt and David Wirtschafter. He will continue to Chair the Research Committee, which oversees the Marshall Klaus Perinatal Research Award for Trainees in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, for the AAP SOPP Executive Committee.

University of California at San Francisco

UCSF opened a new “Neuro-Intensive Care Nursery (NICN)” in July 2008. This multidisciplinary unit (collaboration with neurology and neuroradiology) specializes in preterm and term infants at risk for neurological injury. UCSF plans to roll out new neuroprotective trials in the coming years.

University of California at Los Angeles

The UCLA Newborn ICU has moved to the new state of the art Ronald Reagan UCLA hospital in June 2008.

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

Bindya Singh, Director of Neonatal Community Education and Outreach, chaired an outstanding two-day, 3rd annual Perinatal-Neonatal conference for over 100 health care professionals in San Jose, Nov 6-7, 2008.

Loma Linda University

Kristin Hougland joined Loma Linda, in the Fall of 2008. She is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and she

DISTRICT X / DAVID BURCHFIELD

Three exciting conferences hosted within District X are just around the corner:

NEO: The Conference for Neonatology (neoconference.com) will be held at the Disney’s Yacht & Beach Club Resorts from February 26th to March 1st with sessions on “The First Three Days of Life,” “Informatics in the NICU,” “Hematological Concerns in the NICU,” “Nutritional Care of the Complex/Surgical Patient” and “The Neonatal Brain.” In addition, there will be a pre-conference February 25th on Clinical Quality Improvement.

University of California at San Francisco

UCSF opened a new “Neuro-Intensive Care Nursery (NICN)” in July 2008. This multidisciplinary unit (collaboration with neurology and neuroradiology) specializes in preterm and term infants at risk for neurological injury. UCSF plans to roll out new neuroprotective trials in the coming years.
Sarah Dunn Keene is Emory’s newest faculty member. After receiving her MD degree with AOA distinction from Emory University School of Medicine, she attended Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for her pediatric residency and neonatal fellowship. Dr. Keene’s research interests include effects of inflammatory and infectious stimuli on the secreted products of neonatal astrocytes.

Janet L. Thigpen was recently presented the Manuscript of Exceptional Merit Award at the ANN meeting in Las Vegas. Her paper entitled “Intravenous Extravasation: Nursing Procedure for Initial Treatment” can be found in Neonatal Network, The Journal of Neonatal Nursing.

District X members congratulate Jatinder Bhatia from the Division of Neonatology at the Medical College of Georgia as he was named Editor of the Supplements of Journal of Perinatology.

FLORIDA

University of Florida

The University of Florida is excited about the 14th Eitzman Visiting Professor in honor of Don Eitzman, Distinguished Service Professor and founding member of the division. This year’s visiting professor will be Father John Paris, SJ, Walsh Professor of Theology and Bioethics at Boston College. District X members are invited to his Grand Rounds on May 7th at 8 AM.

Joe Neu was awarded a new NIH Grant, “Intestinal Microecology, Inflammatory Markers and Necrotizing Enterocolitis.”

David Burchfield was named to the Board of Directors for the American Heart Association Greater Southeast Affiliate.

Congratulations to Matthew Saxonhouse for his selection as a member in the SPR.

Congratulations also to 3rd year neonatology fellow Martha Douglas-Escobar for receiving a Marshall Klaus Research Award from the Section, as well as an AHA-Greater Southeast Affiliate Fellowship Award to study neurotrophins in stem cell biology. Dr. Escobar’s mentor is Michael Weiss.

GEORGIA

Emory University

Emory is excited to announce the funding of the Emory Alcohol and Lung Biology Center Grant from the NIAAA. As part of the Emory Center, investigators Theresa W. Gauthier and Lou Ann S. Brown from the Division of Neonatology, will investigate novel biomarkers for the identification of the alcohol-exposed premature newborn and evaluate the risk of adverse outcomes of prematurity such as BPD and sepsis.
OBITUARIES

Joan Hodgman, 84

Dr. Joan Hodgman, an influential neonatologist at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center and former APGAR Awardee who helped define the field of neonatology, died Aug. 10, 2008 of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. A longtime resident of Arcadia, Dr. Hodgman died at a family cabin in Oregon, according to her daughter, Ann Schwartz.

Dr. Hodgman spent 60 years at County-USC, including three decades – from 1957 to 1986 – as director of its newborn division. She played a central role in developing its intensive care unit for sick and premature babies – the first in Los Angeles and among the first in the nation – and led efforts that dramatically reduced the hospital’s infant mortality rate.

A prolific researcher and USC professor of pediatrics who wrote or contributed to more than 300 articles and books, she was particularly known for her studies on sudden infant death syndrome. She also was a leading voice in debates over the ethics of saving extremely damaged babies, often raising painful questions about when heroic measures should be abandoned.

Dr. Hodgman was born Sept. 7, 1923, in Portland, Ore., and grew up in San Marino, Calif. The daughter of an Army Corps engineer, she was raised to believe that “being a woman shouldn’t stand in her way,” said her cousin, Irene Hartzell. She entered Stanford University at 16 and earned a bachelor’s degree in 1943 before pursuing her medical education at UC San Francisco, where she was one of the few women in her class.

She moved to Los Angeles in 1948 and completed her pediatric residency at County-USC in 1950. After two years of private practice, she returned to County-USC as head physician for pediatrics in 1952 and became director of its newborn division in 1957.

She quickly recognized the need for a specialized setting to care for the sickest babies. Around 1961, more than a decade before neonatology became a recognized subspecialty, she organized a newborn intensive care unit and began developing protocols for diagnosing its tiny patients.

Within 10 years, her efforts resulted in a 50% decrease in the infant mortality rate, which affected thousands of babies. By the late 1970s, County-USC was delivering nearly 20,000 babies a year, with as many as 50 newborns in the intensive care unit at a time. In 1999 Dr. Hodgman received the Apgar Award, the highest honor in neonatology.

An athletic woman who enjoyed physical challenges – she loved body surfing and water skied well into her 70s – Dr. Hodgman was known for frequently challenging accepted wisdom.

A widow at 47 who never remarried, Dr. Hodgman was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease last year but continued to work until she retired in February.

In addition to Ann Schwartz, Dr. Hodgman is survived by another daughter, Susan DiPietro; a brother, Donald; and four grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Joan E. Hodgman Endowed Scholarship Fund at the USC Keck School of Medicine, c/o Michael Mayne, 1975 Zonal Ave., KAM 300, Los Angeles 90089.

David Todres, 73

I. David Todres, a pediatrician, anesthesiologist and ethicist at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children, died on September 26th after a long illness. He was 73 years old.

A native of Cape Town, South Africa, Dr. Todres held appointments at Red Cross Children’s and Groote Schuur Hospitals in Cape Town and the Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center in New York before joining MGH in 1971 as associate director of the neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, becoming the director in 1978. Widely regarded as a founding father of pediatric critical care medicine, Dr. Todres was also internationally recognized as a leading expert in pediatric medical ethics. He was appointed chief of pediatric bioethics at MGH for Children in 1998. A dedicated educator and mentor, Dr. Todres also held academic appointments at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Todres was beloved by his friends and colleagues for his compassionate wisdom, wide-ranging interests, and the warm and caring spirit that he extended to all who knew him. He will be greatly missed. Condolences go out to his wife, Judith Sharlin, PhD; his children, Rachelle, Nadia, Jonathan and Hillel; and his many other family members, loved ones, colleagues and friends.

Donations in support of a David Todres memorial lectureship on pediatric medical ethics may be sent to MGH Development Office, 165 Cambridge St., Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114.

For those who wish to send a card, the address is Judith Sharlin, 10 Fairlee Road, Waban, MA 02468.
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<td>Linda J. Van Marter, MD, MPH</td>
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<td>617/355-6027 Fax: 617/730-0486</td>
<td>(2008-2010)</td>
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<td>Chair-elect, Co-chair, Sub-committee on Practice, Chair, Apgar Award, Associate Editor, Perinatal Section Newsletter</td>
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