News and Events

7th International Conference for Neonatal Nurses (ICNN)

This is an exciting time for COINN as we move towards the 7th International Conference in Durban, South Africa. Our COINN day will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010; times will be announced later. Our COINN Day theme is:

MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FOR BABIES

The purpose of this day is to offer projects to be undertaken and policies that need to be enacted in order to make the world a safe place for babies, especially the neonates. This policy day is aimed at examining COINN mission and Strategic Plan within the Global Context of policy. Dialog with COINN Board of Directors, member organizational representatives, other interested local, national, or international organizational representatives will be a crucial part of this “Call to Action” and agenda setting day. Come with ideas, suggestions so together we can truly make the world safe for babies.

Please remember to register for COINN Day in addition to the conference day – they require separate registration and fees.
We are excited to announce that we now have the ability to use Pay Pal to make your payments for both, on our COINN website.
We have also added a DONATE link on our website for anyone who wants to support COINN and our important works.

COINN IS NOW ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

That’s right – you read correctly; COINN is now on Facebook and Twitter!! In today’s high tech world people find many different ways to stay in touch with colleagues, friends and family. Not to be left in the dust... we are excited to announce the launch of our COINN Facebook and Twitter sites. Now not only will you be able to monitor COINN’s activities on the COINN website (www.coinnurses.org), but you will also find us on the Facebook website: (http://www.facebook.com/business/dashboard/#/pages/Council-of-International-Neonatal-Nurses-Inc-COINN/153729552160) AND the Twitter website: http://twitter.com/COINNurses.

Join us for discussions, watch for 2010 conference updates, works in progress and general information about COINN and our members.
ICN Conference Updates

Carole Kenner represented COINN recently at the International Council of Nurses conference in Durban, South Africa. Also in attendance was a COINN Board of Director; Ruth Davidge and a member of the COINN Scientific Committee; Linda Johnston. Carole met with local organizers of The Conference Company and would like to thank them for their continued hard work. The ICN conference was very well attended. COINN members made some very good contacts with other organizations that may strengthen our global network.

ICN 24™ Quadrennial Congress – June 27 – July 4, 2009
Durban, South Africa ~ By Ruth Davidge

Along with Carole Kenner and Linda Johnston, I was fortunate to be able to represent COINN and NNASA at this prestigious international conference. Being the 1st ICN conference I have been able to attend, I didn’t really know what to expect. Navigating the website and trying to plan my conference was the 1st challenge.

With difficulty I found out the time for the opening ceremony. Armed with camera in hand I joined the long queue filing through the security check points required due to all the politicians in attendance. It was so exciting; as thousands of brightly dressed delegates-many in their national dress gradually filled the stands. I got goose bumps as local delegates spontaneously started singing and dancing to while away the time. Soon everyone was either joining in or taking photos. I was so proud to be South African at that moment. The ceremony was very formal with many speeches and awards and the parade of over 90 attending nations was great-although I would have liked to see their national flags and costumes.

Four intensive days of presentations followed; which required great skill to try and navigate the programme to decide which sessions to attend. I was amazed that there were no formal teas or lunch breaks or dedicated poster sessions so you had to plan your time carefully.

Carole and I spent a lot of time in the exhibition hall trying to promote the 7th ICNN conference with the many organizations represented there. I was again surprised at the lack of trade representation-they were mainly nursing/educational institutions. We handed out hundreds of flyers and actively pursued any potential sponsorship. We also approached some of the speakers who we found most dynamic including Shiela Tlou -the ex health minister from Botswana who has subsequently agreed to be one of our keynote speakers.

There was an interesting mix of presentations and I even managed to find some neonatal specific ones including presenting on the use of beanbags for warming babies and universal screening. I attended a number on the millennium development goals and the role of national nursing associations. My general impression though is that nursing internationally has its back against the wall with critical budget restraints and staffing crisis. One nurse summed it up by saying: thanks for recognizing that nursing is the backbone of healthcare but the back bone is broken and confined to a wheel chair!

I had been very interested to attend this conference as it was in the same venue as our 7th ICNN and I wanted to get some pointers. Unfortunately most of the pointers turned out to be what we definitely wouldn’t do at our conference!

In conclusion I:

- enjoyed the international exposure and networking which I think are so central to these conferences
- realized the amount of work that lies ahead for COINN and NNASA
- ached for dynamic, visionary nursing leadership particularly in South Africa
- discovered there are very few food outlets around the venue
- understood policy takes a long time to be implemented and to change outcomes
• realized that we are all experiencing the same nursing difficulties
• noted how important good communication is and
• gave thanks for the (costly)gem we have in our conference organizers

NEW POSITION STATEMENT

We are currently developing a COINN Position Statement on Partner Violence – watch for it on our website in the coming months!

NeoReviews

COINN is expanding and can now be found on the NeoReviews website – we are excited about this link and hope you take a few minutes to view their website: http://neoreviews.aappublications.org/

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION NEWS AND EVENTS

The Canadian Association of Neonatal Nurses is hosting their second annual National conference "Going for Gold in Neonatal Care" in Halifax, Nova Scotia on February 21-23, 2010.

Membership

Membership continues to be an important part of COINN. Memberships vary from a Unit Membership which is made up of hospitals, clinics and facilities with a range of 1 to 50 beds and 50 plus beds; National Organization Memberships which include national organizations with established members and our Corporate Memberships, all with very affordable levels of membership. We now also offer memberships to Individuals who are not a part of a National Organization.

• Don’t forget we are now registered with PayPal – so you can go to our website and make payments for everything from COINN memberships and donations to payments for the 2010 conference and don’t forget to go to our online store and find great bargains on hand made items from our affiliates in Kenya (coming soon!!).

• Please join us as we count down the days until we meet in Durban, South Africa for the 2010 ICNN Conference – we look forward to seeing you there! Continue to watch our website for updated information: www.coinnurses.org.

A Note from Our President

A lot has happened in the last few months. We are excited about the upcoming the 7th ICNN Conference in Durban, South Africa next year. This is going to be a conference that you won’t want to miss. We are offering something for everyone. Basics to advanced, policy to practical, that’s what you will find. If you have never been to South Africa you will be amazed at the beauty of the mountains and ocean and learn much about the culture. Take advantage of pre- or post-conference trips to really see the country. If you like wild animals there are one of largest game parks nearby, Kruger National Park. I went there in July and yes I saw the big five. The people are warm and friendly just waiting to welcome you. So take advantage of the professional networking and sightseeing. Please join us in Durban in October, 2010.
COINN has joined the information age! We are on Facebook and Twitter!! Join the fun on Twitter!! Become a fan and keep up on all our activities. Dr. Judy Lott is helping us enter this new age of social networking as she loves technology! Thanks Judy.

I have had some discussions with some of the National Nursing Associations as well as ICN to determine how COINN can become more involved and strengthen the role of affiliate organizations. Some common topics among most organizations are staffing ratios, nursing practice role expectations/competencies, and nursing education.

The National Association of Neonatal Nurses started an Advocacy Network. COINN is now linked with their policy work. Visit the NANN website www.nann.org for more information. I attended their meeting in Austin, Texas, USA in September and explained COINN’s many activities including the upcoming COINN policy day in Durban. If your organization has subcommittees or groups that you think COINN should link with or present to please let me know.

We continue to look for funding and seek grant opportunities. We are very interested in partnering with other agencies to obtain grants in the area of practice, policy, education, or research.

Thank you to each and every one of our members and sponsors. We are growing thanks to you. Keep up the good work.

Respectfully,
Carole Kenner, DNS, RNC-NIC FAAN
President

COINN the voice of more than 15,000 neonatal nurses worldwide.