From the desk of the CEO

Wow! COINN has been busy. As we move into the holiday season, we are thankful to our members and partners for their passion and commitment to making a difference in the lives of newborns and their families. This year we have gained new members from Rwanda, Zambia, Columbia, Hungary, Laos, Viet Nam, Norway, Macedonia – to name a few. On the legislative front, we have worked with Save The Children, WHO, UNICEF, and many others on the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) and Every Newborn Action Plan initiatives. COINN attended the launch of the new Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health at the United Nations in September.

Through partnerships with the Global Engagement Institute (GEI) of Berlin and the Australian College of Neonatal Nurses training has included Helping Babies Breathe and Essential Newborn Care in Rwanda, New Guinea, and Viet Nam. COINN’s member Dr. Kris Karlsen continues global teaching of the S.T.A.B.L.E. program in 45 countries. COINN supported the 1st Congress of joint European Neonatal Societies (jENS) in Budapest in September. COINN’s annual general members meeting was held on September 15, 2015 during this conference.

Together with the Canadian Association of Neonatal Nurses (CANN) planning is well under way for COINN 2016 conference to be held in Vancouver.

Two important projects are underway: the global neonatal nursing workforce database and the revision of COINN’s Strategic Plan. We want your input: please go to our website or click the icons on you right. Please remember to “Like” us on Facebook!

COINN joined the International Neonatal Consortium (INC) a public-private partnership aimed at examining the need for more research/testing of medications used in the neonatal population. Leaders from the pharmaceutical industry, medicine, nursing, academics, regulators, researchers, and parents are exploring how to safely and ethically test drugs and conduct research in this vulnerable population. Please look for future updates as this work progresses. For more information on INC please go to http://c-path.org/critical-path-institute-launches-new-neonatal-consortium/

Carole Kenner, CEO of COINN


**COINN welcomes new members!**

First, we want to say thank you to our *individual members* who have joined us since August 2015 when we announced a yearlong discount in celebration of our 10th anniversary. We are growing! Nurses and neonatal care providers from India, Brazil, Australia, Rwanda, UK, USA, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Hungary, Croatia, Israel, Macedonia, Japan and other many countries are uniting! The champions are Rwandan colleagues: so far, there are 91 new members from that country! Thank you all. COINN will continue to offer its membership for **ONE dollar** (USD) for the **ONE passion** we all have – to help newborns and their families! Hurry, there are only few months have left to become a member for the smallest fee ever – till the end of COINN conference in Canada in August, 2016!

Second, we want to congratulate and introduce the new members of the **COINN’s Board of Directors**: Karen Walker, Annie Marshall, Agnes van den Hoogen, and Marina Boykova. Read their short biography on our [website](http://www.coinnurses.org). We also wish to thank our outgoing members Trudi Mannix and Jacquie Koberstein who devoted many hours to helping COINN grow.

Third, we are proud to announce our **new affiliated partner**! This is the Hungarian organization, founded by the parent of a preterm infant, for improving care and supporting parents of preterm infants — [**Right(s) Beside You**](http://www.rightsbyourside.org/). COINN welcomes you and looks forward to a long lasting collaboration! We believe that parents are critical part of the health care team and will help us recognize and support their needs as well as those of their newborns!

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**Congratulations go out to COINN Chief Financial Officer, Mary Blankenship Pointer.**

She received the Angel Award for her community service, presented to unsung heroes by the National Oklahoma City Douglass High School Alumni Association. She also received the Points of Light award for her remarkable leadership in Oklahoma. On November 5th, as part of her work with Prevent Blindness, she presented an award to former First Lady of the United States of America Laura Bush for her commitment to raising awareness of vision problems across the lifespan.

From Left to right: Hugh Parry, CEO of Prevent Blindness; Mrs. Laura Bush, the Former First Lady of the USA; Mary Pointer, CFO of COINN and Prevent Blindness.
The Neonatal Nurses College of Aotearoa (NNCA) Developing Countries Project

NNCA are proud to report the completion of the inaugural Developing Countries Project workshop for New Zealand trainers. The aim is to train NZ nurses to deliver the P.O.I.N.T.S of care programme to a developing country to improve skills and knowledge in neonatal nursing care and build the capacity of the local neonatal nursing workforce.

The workshop is a progression following the successful NNCA Neonatal Nurse P.O.I.N.T.S of Care education programme that was completed in Samoa in 2013. This programme was presented at the COINN conference in Belfast September 2013.

The six applicants, all experienced NZ neonatal nurses, completed the workshop over two days in Wellington on 28-29 October 2015. They are all eager to carry the project to the next stage of delivering neonatal nurse education to developing countries, with a focus on the Pacific rim, with the aim to reduce infant morbidity and mortality. The workshop has equipped the applicants with the NNCA copyright resource, including learner’s manual, trainers guide and proposal templates.

NNCA will be liaising with project management groups such as Health Specialists Ltd., MSF and the NZ Vietnam Trust to assist with advice and support for the next stage to deliver this exciting training project.

Annie Marshall
NNCA chairperson

The Annual Scientific Conference of the Kenya Paediatric Nurses Chapter (that includes neonatal nurses) was held on August 20-21, 2015, in Nakuru County, North Rift region. The main theme for the conference was “What Approaches Have/Have Not Worked Towards The Four Preventable Diseases” with four important subthemes: Pneumonia, Diarrhea, Malaria and Neonatal Sepsis. Over 100 participants attended the meeting, exchanged ideas and experiences on the issues of eliminating these major killers of infants and children under five years old. Neonatal Topics discussed during the conference were:

- Childhood morbidity and mortality trends: 2008-2013
- Newborn case study from the country’s National referral hospital
- Acute kidney injury in neonates
- Neonatal sepsis: a case study
- Hyperbilirubinemia and exchange transfusion
- Extreme prematurity: case studies

The 2015 conference attendees came from a variety of settings: public health sector, faith based organizations and the private institutions with one goal for all health professionals: to help infants and children.

Christabel Wesonga-Omondi
Chair, Kenya Paediatric Nurses Chapter
COINN representative for Kenya

See more photos at http://coinnurses.org/?page_id=1289
Canada prepares to welcome the neonatal nursing world in 2016!

Plans are well under way for the 9th Council of International Neonatal Nurses Conference (COINN 2016) being held at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from Sunday, August 14 to Wednesday, August 17, 2016.

The COINN 2016 Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work developing an outstanding program that will include a series of general sessions featuring national and international experts and leaders who will address current and emerging topics and trends that are forging the way to improved neonatal nursing care and newborn health worldwide. Here is a preview of the general session topics being confirmed:

- Newborn feeding approaches
- Developmental care
- Neuroplasticity and the newborn brain
- Pain management
- Workforce issues and the future of neonatal nursing
- Ethics in the NICU
- Exclusive human milk for very premature infants
- Post millennium development goals
- Research in newborn resuscitation
- Family participation

General session speakers will be announced in the coming weeks on the COINN 2016 website. I also encourage you to submit an abstract for oral or poster presentation – the deadline to submit is February 15, 2016.

Program updates, as well as travel, hotel and registration information can be found on the COINN 2016 website at COINN2016.neonatalcann.ca. You can also follow us on Twitter @COINNN2016.

Mark the date today, don’t miss your opportunity to be at the premiere educational and networking Conference in neonatal nursing. Come share “ONE PASSION. ONE VISION. ONE WORLD.”

Submitted by: Karen Lasby
Co-Chair, COINN 2016 Planning Committee
President-Elect, Canadian Association of Neonatal Nurses

The meeting started with a briefing on PMNCH and their achievements. It was followed by health facility visits in three health centres which had different objectives as they focused on different aspects of the partnership. It was followed by subgroup meetings in which health care professionals met to discuss strengthening of local partnerships in maternal and child health. The meeting saw the establishment of the 8th constituency which will have a direct focus on adolescents and young people. This constituency will help strengthen adolescent involvement from planning through to implementation of adolescent programmes.

The board worked on the five year strategic plan which will be in place 2016 to 2020. The strategic plan focused on Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s health. The partnership agreed to support the Every Woman and Every Child Global Strategy and pledged to use the 722 partners working at global, regional and local levels to assist with moving the Strategy forward. The first five years of the global strategy will focus on completing the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals in ending the preventable deaths of children, newborns and mothers through contraception provision and reduction of preventable maternal deaths. The partnership will align all partners together, by advocating and holding each other accountable in order to drive the Global Strategy.

The board came up with four strategic objectives which included the following:

- Prioritise engagement of countries to make sure there is multi-stakeholder platforms to bring people together in places where it matters most.
- Support a new independent accountability panel and find innovative ways of ensuring that pledges are fulfilled.
- Work together to focus and get the desired results through advocating for what works best.
- Deepen the partnership and find better ways of working together

Bupe Mwamba
COINN Representative for Zambia

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**SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**

*Founded by Shante Nixon, mother to a 26 ½ week preemie that died at 18 days old, Connected 2 NICU, Inc. has created a support app for families.*

Established: 2013

Outreach: National

Web: [www.connect2nicu.com](http://www.connect2nicu.com)

Focus: Providing resources for parents who have babies in the NICU in a mobile app. Later versions will also include parents whose babies have already graduated the NICU and are dealing with ongoing issues.

Programs: Interview parents and others connected to the NICU via Google Hangouts. Please contact us to share your story!

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**SPECIAL FOR PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH/DAY:**

With November being World Prematurity Awareness Month and 17 November being World Prematurity Awareness Day, PreemieWorld has created a special logo for the community of parents and professionals. Feel free to download it, share it on social networks and more: [http://preemie.us/PreemieWarriors](http://preemie.us/PreemieWarriors)

**ABOUT DEB DISCENZA:**

Deb Discenza is the mother of a former 30-weeker girl now 12 years old and healthy! Deb is the co-author of critically acclaimed The Preemie Parent’s Survival Guide to the NICU available at [www.PreemieWorld.com](http://www.PreemieWorld.com)

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**World Prematurity Day, November 17, 2015**

World Prematurity Day: the 5th worldwide event brought together more than 70 countries! Just the reach of this day is staggering: over 408 million Twitter impressions, with 67,448 tweets using #worldprematurityday in November (versus 34.7k in 2014), 4,610 people changed their profile picture; social reach of 2.7 million; 8.4 million post impressions on Facebook and estimated global TV audience of 1 billion. Groups-professional nursing, medical, allied health groups, parent groups, and NGOs all participated. The goal is to stop all preventable preterm births and to raise awareness associated with an early delivery.

Read the short recap from the UN Foundation, PMNCH and Save the Children at our website. More information will come soon!