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Ms Jacquie Koberstein (NZ)

E-mail us at info@coinnurses.org

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From the Editor

Wow, wasn’t the COINN Conference 2013 just awesome.

Well done to the Belfast organizing committee for their outstanding work and to all the sponsors, speakers and poster participants that excelled in providing the right mix of education, clinical, research and management topics relating to neonatal care from around the world.

Belfast was an amazing venue and I am sure that most participants enjoyed the shopping, landscape, history and music of this vibrant city and the country of Nth Ireland.

We, as a committee, had the opportunity to meet for the first time and had an industrious day at the University the day before the conference started. The photo below is at the completion of our day. As mentioned at the AGM we are still looking for committee members so please forward any interest to our email address.

Our new website is in full swing so get involved and tell us what you think via our facebook or twitter; quick links are to the left of this page.

This month’s edition centers around Africa and the issue in November will be Asia so please forward any information by the first Monday of the month to be included.

From left to right: Karen New, Trudi Mannix, Jacquie Koberstein, Debbie O’Donoghue, Ruth Davidge, Carole Kenner and Patricia O’Flaherty.
UNIFYING NEONATAL NURSES GLOBALLY

A bit of History
Maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) is a swift and painful killer disease that killed 58,000 newborns in 2010 alone. Maternal and neonatal tetanus represents a very high proportion of the total tetanus disease burden due mainly to inadequate immunization services, limited or absent clean delivery services and improper postpartum cord care. The majority of mothers and newborns dying of tetanus live in Africa and Southern and East Asia, generally in areas where women are poor, have little access to health care, and have little information about safe delivery practices.

Once the disease is contracted, the fatality rate can be as high as 100% without hospital care and from 10% to 60% with hospital care. The true extent of the tetanus death toll is not known as many newborns and mothers die at home and neither the birth nor the death is reported.

See what UNICEF is doing with personal stories of families and children to assist in reducing this deadly disease.

http://www.unicef.org/health/index_43509.html

Central Africa
Unicef is also involved is Central Africa to provide aid to Aka Pygmies who reside in the forests. A mother with an infant with neonatal tetanus walked 15 kms to get help for her newborn. The Aka Pygmies are almost entirely self-sufficient and eat relatively well with fresh fruit and vegetables readily available. However, without access to health and sanitation facilities, children here are also more likely to suffer from common parasites such as worms – a condition which can be life-threatening if untreated.

In the case of the Aka Pygmies, help is urgently required as they slowly begin to succumb to disease, chronic poverty and marginalization by the larger society. Many are gradually moving closer to larger towns and villages where social stigmatization often means they are turned away from schools and hospitals. In desperate need of income, many are exploited for their labour.

Read more on how things are changing for this vulnerable population

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/car_42698.html

COINN Mission Statement
To promote excellence in neonatal nursing and health outcomes for the infants and families we serve and to act as an international leader in the development and revision of professional standards of neonatal nursing

Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN)
94 Lyall Terrace, Boston MA 02132
Phone: 1.405.684.1476 Email: info@coinnurses.org Website: www.coinnurses.org
A Nurses Story

The nursing excellence awards were awarded at the COINN conference in Belfast this month. Their excellent stories show that nurses make a difference to reduce infant mortality in their countries and are inspirational in their commitment to teaching both families and students.

Christine Sammy is from Kitui County, Kenya and Anila Ali Bardai from Karachi, Pakistan was the 2013 winners this year. Netsayi Gowero from Blantyre, Malawi was selected as the runner up. For more information on their interviews and seeing them in action go to:


The Real Awards

The REAL Awards was created by Save the Children and the Frontline Health Workers Coalition, with the help of sponsors Merck Company Foundation, and Masimo Foundation for Ethics, Innovation, and Competition in Healthcare.

By some estimates, the world is short more than 5 million health workers, including one million frontline health workers. Existing health workers are often overworked and underappreciated. The REAL Awards will aim to foster greater awareness of the lifesaving work of health workers globally and to recognize the achievements of health workers who are delivering care in some of the world’s hardest-to-reach communities as well as health workers who go above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis.

Starting September 23, 2013, partners will be asked to submit an electronic submission form nominating a global health worker hero for a REAL Award. Simultaneously, the American public will be asked to visit www.therealawards.com to nominate and vote for inspiring U.S.-based health workers making a difference in their communities. The nomination period will be followed by a public, online voting period for the U.S. nominees and in January 2014, both U.S. and international REAL Awards honorees will be announced.

COINN have also become partners in the launch of the REAL awards which is now live: http://www.therealawards.com/. Let us know whom you want to nominate and why.
Conference Feedback

COINN conference in Belfast is hosted by elected countries every three years so involves a lot of planning and commitment. There was over 400 participants this year in Ireland from 35 countries. The participants that contributed were from 19 countries providing 70 accepted abstracts and 61 poster presentations. The presentations were divided into areas of interest covering education, prematurity, feeding, infection, global issues, transport and stabilization, long term outcomes, neuroprotection and developmental care. Other issues included workplace management, advanced practitioner, palliative care, pain, sedation, respiratory support and neonatal networks. There were 16 invited speakers as well as workshops and a breakfast session. The conference was intensive but ran like clock work.

The dinner at the Titanic Museum was also fascinating and the opportunity to take photos on the replica of the Titanic staircase was memorable. Make sure you are at Vancouver, Canada in 2016 it should not be missed.

South Africa group posing on the Titanic staircase
From left to right clockwise: Mariana Scheepers, Hilary Barlow, Vanessa Booysen, Ann Leslie, Ruth Davidge and Carin Maree

Giants Causeway – A Conference Sunday excursion

Causeway Coastline at Carrick-a-Rede
A bit of Culture

Circumcision

Neonatal male circumcision (MC) in African countries is a partially effective HIV prevention strategy and is safer with less surgical errors, infection and other adverse events than in adulthood but is it that simple. In some areas of African such as Rwanda the religious beliefs are predominantly Christian but in other areas MC is a right of passage to puberty and what about other religions such as Jews and Muslims. So what about the other risks? If perceived as a reduced risk will this change their behaviour to prehaps increase sexual partners and stop other means of protection such as condoms. Something to consider in all interventions we implement.


http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000219

Being Born Beng

In Côte d’Ivoire in West Africa to understand and raise children is to acknowledge that they come from wrugbe. Religious specialists - Masters of the Earth and Diviner, emphasize that babies still partly inhabit the afterlife. Until the umbilical cord stump falls off they are deemed not yet a person and if they should die the fact is not announced and no funeral held. From that time onwards the baby starts a difficult spiritual journey out of wrugbe that can take until they are 7 years old. It is a culture that sees infants as ancestors that are unable to communicate but know and see everything.

Check out this website:

http://www.academia.edu/1385338/Babies_as_Ancestors_Babies_as_Spirits_The_Culture_of_Infancy_in_West_Africa

Staircase at restaurant in the Titanic Museum
Affiliate Organizations

Australian College of Neonatal Nurses (ACNN)

Canadian Association Neonatal Nurses (CANN)

Special Interest Group in Neonatal Nursing (SIG in Neonatal Nursing) - Danish

Society of Neonatal Nurses (SNH) - Finnish

Indian Association of Neonatal Nurses

Neonatal Nurses Caring for Hawai’i’s Babies

Neonatal Nurses Netherlands

Articles of Interest

Health Workforce Brain Drain: From Denouncing the Challenge to Solving the Problem

http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001514

Puzzle Centre

Complete the phrase using the letters below.

The answer is within this Newsletter.

Good Luck!

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L N O A S E M E E N O
H E F P R H S T A N D N U E S I L I E C T D I
T O N A O N A O T L E O V A S I F E N S N W E
I N A E T T M O U T C R F R M L L G R A E H E N
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Preemie Corner

We are excited to share more resources with you this edition:

Support Group Snapshot

Name: Bliss – for babies born too soon, too small and too sick
Website: www.bliss.org.uk
Mission: Bliss is the United Kingdom charity working to provide the best possible care and support for all premature and sick babies and their families.
Background: In addition to advocacy work to improve the care of babies, Bliss also provides phoneline support, in person support groups, publications, a web site full of resources and more.

Resource:

Item: Tips for Preemie Dads
By: by PreemieWorld, LLC
Why: As research shows, fathers are an essential presence in a child’s life. Their efforts pay off immediately and in the long run in terms of socialization and more. The global Inspire.com board “Preemie Support” parents contributed to this enlightening piece surrounding fathers with love, understanding and sound tips.

Deb Discenza is the mother of a former 30-weeker girl now 10 years old and healthy! As the Founder and former Publisher of Preemie Magazine, Deb is the co-author of “The Preemie Parent’s Survival Guide to the NICU” available at www.PreemieWorld.com