From the Editor

It is nearly half way through the year and what a busy year we have had.

The Every Newborn Action Plan has been endorsed by the World Health Assembly. This paves the way for the launch of the final Every Newborn Action Plan at the Partners Forum in Johannesburg on 30 June. PMNCH Chair and A Promise Renewed Ambassador Graça Machel will unveil the plan at the meeting, accompanied by a set of concrete, measurable commitments from stakeholders in support of the UN Secretary-General’s Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health and Every Woman Every Child. (Deadline for submissions: 9 June – please reply to everynewborn@who.int if you have not yet received an invitation letter to make a commitment.)

Lots of events have occurred marking this endorsement including the Lancet Every Newborn Series.
http://www.thelancet.com/series/everynewborn
www.ustream.tv/channel/unicef-lancet-en-series-launch

Thank you for the submissions from South American for this bulletin. Please forward any submissions in Word for ease of publication into the bulletin.

Our quiz over the next few editions was kindly put together by my neonatal colleagues. Let’s see how you fare on your A&P on different organs of the body. If you would like to try your hand at a quiz to tempt your international colleagues please send these in to me as well. I hope you enjoy it.

Jacquie Koberstein
COINN Editor

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 bit of History

The prevalence of preterm births is 11.7% compared to all births in Brazil. This percentage puts the country at the same level of low-income ones, where the prevalence is 11.8%. According to the report “Born too Soon”, published by the World Health Organisation in 2012, in middle income countries the percentage is 9.4%.

In a study developed to contribute for the “commitment to child survival: a renewed promise”, researchers investigated the numbers of preterm births in Brazil and also the low-birth weight. This study was supported by the United Nations Funds for Children and the Health Ministry, and it was conducted by the Postgraduate Programme in Epidemiology at Federal University of Pelotas with the collaboration of 12 Brazilian universities.

Based on this study, there is an increase of premature births in Brazil; despite this the country has reduced their infant mortality rates. An information programme (SINASC), which is a system of the Health Ministry, pointed to a slight increase in the percentage of preterm births from 6.8% to 7.2%, between 2000 and 2010. Considering the WHO reports 15 million children were born prematurely around the world. In Brazil, 279,000 babies per year were born premature, which gives it the tenth position in the worldwide ranking.

Prematurity is the leading cause of death e-Baby in the first month of life, according to the Health Ministry (2011). Currently, the Brazilian mortality rate of children younger than one year old is 16/1000 live births in 2011, reported by the Interagency Network for Health Information (RIPSA). The greatest cause of these deaths is the perinatal factors (hypoxia, preterm birth, low birth weight, malformation, sepsis) in 62%. Besides, approximately 70% of deaths occur in the first 28 days of birth.

In this context the challenge is to reduce this rate in the most vulnerable populations, as well as promoting a higher quality care for these children during the hospitalization in the NICU and after discharge. These strategies might reduce the negative outcomes for the preterm infant and their family. So, different studies have been conducted in Brazil in order to contribute for these themes. See articles of interest submitted by Cláudia Viera.

http://www.chantallockey.org/
Renal Quiz

Across
3. What is the structural and functional unit of the kidney?
4. What is the name of the loop between Proximal and Distal convoluting tubules?
6. What is the collection capsule called in the filtering system? (two words; 7 & 7 letters)
10. What arteries deliver 1/4th of the total cardiac output (1200mls) to the kidneys each minute?
11. What is the name of the tubule going from the pelvis of the kidney to the bladder?
12. What is diminished urine output called?

Down
1. What is the outer layer of dense fibrous connective tissue that anchors the kidney to the surrounding structures? (two words; 5 & 6 letters)
2. What is one of the two layers of the kidney?
5. What is the medical term for blood in the urine?
7. What is increased urine output called?
8. What is the name of the tubule going from the bladder to the outside?
9. What is the second layer of the kidney?
A bit of Culture

Rites of passage

Birth ceremonies were simple family affairs. After the birth, both parents fasted for a few days and observed food taboos. Couvade was practiced; that is, the father stayed in the hut several days, mimicking labour, while relatives and friends provided essential needs.

Among the Sirionó a child was born openly in the communal house; and after birth the parents walked in the forest scattering ashes as a purification rite and then lit a new fire that signified new life.

Before the age of puberty, boys and girls learned by imitating older children and adults. Among the shellfish gatherers, children by the age of four began to gather shellfish and spear sea urchins close to shore, returning to camp to roast them and eat them. From an early age children thus took care of their food needs as far as shellfish were concerned. Boys and girls were separated after the age of seven. The boys played with bows and arrows. The girls learned to swim and dive. Males did not learn to swim or dive, since diving for shellfish was considered women’s work. Corporal punishment was rare, but children were lectured by elders on manners and morals.


Couvade

Among the Garifuna of Honduras, fathers abstain from fishing, complex construction activities (such as building a house), and heavy exertion during the postpartum period. Garifuna people explain that this parental behaviour is essential for proper infant development: a child receives food from its mother (in the form of breast milk) but gains its life force directly from its father, through a spiritual umbilicus. Thus, a new father must avoid activities that will “spend” his vigour, because such expenditures may cause his child to fall weak and die. If a new father accidentally engages in an activity that causes him to sweat—sweat being the physical manifestation of vigour—he must rub the fluid on the child’s body so that the energy is passed along to the child rather than dissipated into the atmosphere. Garifuna men also rub perspiration onto their older children as a curative agent.

http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/140994/couvade

Hispanic Traditions

Quince Años celebration is a popular tradition in most Latin American countries. Also known as the Fiesta Quinceañera it marks the right of passage from girlhood to a young woman.

This celebration generally consists of a big party with the girl wearing very elaborate dress, usually in a pastel shade.

http://www.explore-hispanic-culture.com/hispanic-culture.html

Hispanic Baby Names

Babies are generally named after one of the close family members. Hispanic children are given at least two names and also have their paternal and maternal names as a surname.

http://www.explore-hispanic-culture.com/hispanic-baby-names.html
Articles of interest

Parents’ experiences on daily care at home for preterm and low-birth weight infants: individual, social and institutional vulnerabilities

Authors: Claudia Silveira, PhD; Debora Falleiros de Mello, PhD; Maria Candida de Carvalho Furtado, PhD; Beatriz Rosana Gonçalves de Oliveira, PhD; Monika Wernet, PhD.

Abstract

Objective: Aimed to analyze parents’ experiences on a daily care at home for premature (PT) and low birth weight (LBW) infants focusing on individual, social and institutional vulnerabilities.

Design: Qualitative study, developed in Brazil with six families who had babies discharged from neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Four home visits were conducted for each family.

Measurement: Primary data obtained from non-structured interviews recorded with 12 parents, data analysis used hermeneutic approach.

Results: After discharge, parents’ feelings about their infant’s health emerged, so faced ambiguous feelings become emotionally vulnerable. The arrival at home is a real opportunity to know their infant’s needs in this period is essential for parents the Primary Health Care (PHC) support. Nevertheless, for them there is poor knowledge and lack of confidence from the professionals on PHN to take care of PT/LBW and encourage those families. The absence of a connection with the PHC unit does not give recognition of that local as a possibility to be asked when necessary, what increases vulnerability.

Conclusion: In the study reality the health services need to be organized in a network offering qualified follow-up for PT/LBW, taking into account that parent’s care health needs are connected to their individual and social contexts.

Parental Support

A ideia The idea

Me chamo Denise, sou nutricionista, e há alguns anos me dedico a cuidar da saúde de bebês prematuros. My name is Denise, I am a nutritionist, and a few years ago I dedicate myself to take care of the health of premature babies. Essa experiência me levou à criação do Prematuridade.com, pois acompanho a dificuldade que pais, familiares e amigos de bebês prematuros têm em encontrar ajuda no mundo virtual. This experience led me to the creation of Prematuridade.com therefore accompany the difficulty that parents, relatives and friends of premature babies have to find help in the virtual world.

Nesse meio tempo também me tornei mãe de uma duplinha fofo. In the meantime I also became mother of a cute duplinha. Apesar de não terem sido prematuros, a maternidade também contribuiu muito para a criação do site, pois passei a conhecer as grandes dúvidas e preocupações que temos quando se trata da saúde dos nossos filhos. Despite not having been premature, motherhood also contributed greatly to the creation of the site, because I got to know the major questions and concerns we have when it comes to the health of our children.

O Prematuridade.com visa compartilhar e debater informações relevantes a respeito do tema “prematuridade”. The Prematuridade.com aims to share and discuss relevant information about the topic of "prematurity".

Denise Centeno (10/04/11)
Articles of interest

Development of the e-Baby serious game with regard to evaluation of oxygenation in preterm babies; contributions of the emotional design

Authors: Luciana Mara Monti Fonsesca, PhD; Danielle Monteiro Vilela Dias, Master in Nursing; Fernanda Santos Nogueira Gôes, PhD; Carlos Alberto Seixas, PhD in Health Sciences; Carmen Gracinda Silvan Scochi, PhD in Nursing; José Carlos Amado Martins, PhD in Nursing; Manuel Alves Rodrigues, PhD in Education Sciences.

Abstract: The present study aimed to describe the development process of a serious game that enables users to evaluate the respiratory process in a preterm infant based on an emotional design model. The e-Baby serious game was built to feature the simulated environment of an incubator, in which the user performs a clinical evaluation of the respiratory process in a virtual preterm infant. The user learns about the preterm baby’s history, chooses the tools for the clinical evaluation, evaluates the baby and determines whether his/her evaluation is appropriate. The e-Baby game presents phases that contain respiratory process impairments of high or low complexity in the virtual preterm baby. Included links give the user the option of recording the entire evaluation procedure and sharing his/her performance on a social network. e-Baby integrates a Clinical Evaluation of the Preterm Baby Course in the Moodle virtual environment. This game that evaluates the respiratory process in preterm infants should support a more flexible, attractive and interactive teaching and learning process that includes simulations with features very similar to neonatal unit realities, thus allowing more appropriate training for clinical oxygenation evaluations in at-risk preterm infants. e-Baby allows advanced user-technology educational interactions because it requires active participation in the process and is emotionally integrated.

The World Family Map 2013 is a report on mapping family change and child well-being outcomes. It looks at family dynamics from single parent family, numbers of children in each country etc. Worth having a browse at ............


Photograph by Simon Hewitt, MyShot

South America is a continent of extremes. It is home to the world’s largest river, The Amazon as well as the world’s driest place the Atacama Desert

Photograph by George F. Mobley

Twilight view, bathed in purple light of gentle falls of Rio Petrohue winding through rocks with Osorno Volcano, part of the Andes Mountains, in the background.

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/south-america-human-geography/?ar_a=1&ar_r=3
Preemie Corner

Special Resource

Name: NICU Helping Hands

Website: www.NICUHelpingHands.org

NICU Helping Hands was started in 2011 with the specific goal of parent-centred care. Whether it was providing essentials for families in the NICU during stressful times or creating a support network where mothers could connect with one another, founder Lisa Grubbs has maintained the parent-focused theme the entire way through.

With the launch of the Angel Gown Program in the last year, NICU Helping Hands was recently thrust into the national and international spotlight. Babies who died in the NICU were often left being buried in clothing taken from a donation bin in the unit. Grubbs was determined to make sure a family never had to do that again and so the Angel Gown Program was created using donated wedding gowns as the source material for seamstresses to make incredible gowns for the babies.

The story went local in the Dallas Ft Worth Texas region and within days it was on CNN and had also gone international. NICU Helping Hands has been overwhelmed with donations of wedding gowns, of donations to help further their programs and with requests for Angel Gowns.

If your NICU has a need—please consider reaching out to NICU Helping Hands today. They are happy to help.

Deb Discenza is the mother of a former 30-weeker girl now 10yrs old and healthy! As the Founder and former Publisher of Preemie Magazine, Deb is the co-author of the Preemie Parents Survival Guide in the NICU available at www.PreemieWorld.com

Quiz answers

Across

Down

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