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From the Editor

COINN was first launched in 2005 to act as the voice for international neonatal nursing and care. It is a growing international community of nurses affiliated with partners in global change for education, practice and research. We are delighted to be celebrating 10yrs of collaborative improvement and awareness of the needs of nurses caring for neonates and their families.

What an amazing commitment from all members over the last 10yrs that have pushed the boundaries, improved the lives of families and babies and have sought to improve the standards for neonatal nurses.

What will we achieve in the next 10yrs? Consider being an active member by contacting us by email for future involvement in projects.

We still want to hear what your organizations are doing so please send us a brief summary of your presidents report to share with others including any challenges you are facing.

‘A problem shared is a problem halved’

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
Life with Cerebral Palsy
One of the joys of life is seeing babies taking their first step and hearing their first words. Parents always consider these moments as a part of the normal development process of any newborn. Unfortunately, this is not always the case since the development process can be interrupted due to some complications which might happen before, during or right after birth. One of these complications is birth asphyxia (Lack of oxygen) which doesn’t just cause infant deaths in newborns, but it can also lead to severe organ damage in the survivors followed by a permanent physical injury or life-long disease. The severity of these damages depends on how many minutes the infant stayed without oxygen and which organs were affected. Brain damage is the greatest concern and in many cases is irreversible. Infants who survive birth asphyxia but with brain damage (due to lack of immediate medical intervention) can have mental issues, such as intellectual disability, or physical issues, such as cerebral palsy (CP).

CP is the most common physical disability in childhood and 17 million people worldwide (majority from developing countries) are living with it. CP is a medical condition that refers to a group of disorders affecting a person’s physical and cognitive abilities. While there are a lot of known and unknown factors that might lead to CP, many studies and researchers have found that the interruption of brain development either during pregnancy or shortly after birth is one of the main reasons. People with this condition may have mobility, communication, eating and/or drinking issues due to abnormalities in body movement, muscle control and coordination. For kids with CP, taking a first step or saying a first word is not easy. They would need a lot of treatments and support in order to improve their capabilities. Such interventions and care require a lot of resources which are often not readily available in most of the developing countries. Some international organizations are doing their best to support kids with CP, but like most others, their first wish is to reduce child morbidity with CP worldwide by minimizing the complications before, during and right after birth. This is only feasible through training healthcare providers worldwide by teaching them evidence based techniques that are suitable for limited-resource areas. While Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) doesn’t deal directly with before birth complications, it is an essential technique to resuscitate an asphyxiated newborn that won’t just save the baby’s life, but it will also minimize the possibility of any long-term damages in the brain if it is applied in the first minute following birth. This fact emphasizes the importance of the first 60 seconds in a newborn’s life and the necessity to train more healthcare providers in order to not just save babies but also to have healthy newborns worldwide.

For more details about joining the quest to master and teach HBB, and our program dates please visit our website:

http://www.engage4healthynewborns.org/travel-and-teach/
**Affiliated partners**

![EWWC Banner](image)

**COINN** is proud to be one of the numerous supporters of the United Nations Progress Report on the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health which was released on March 10, 2015. Saving Lives, Protecting Futures


The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) issued 2014 progress report—Moving into 2015 and Beyond


HIFA has more than 14,000 members interacting on 5 forums in 3 languages (English, French and Portuguese) to realize the HIFA vision, in collaboration with WHO and more than 240 health and development organization worldwide [http://www.hifa2015.org/chifa/](http://www.hifa2015.org/chifa/)

Globally, prematurity is the leading cause of death for newborns. Additionally, each year a staggering 2.6 million infants die just minutes or hours before birth — and in many cases of stillbirth, the loss is compounded when the mother also dies.

GAPPS is leading a collaborative, global effort to increase awareness and accelerate innovative research and interventions that will improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes around the world. [http://gapps.org/about](http://gapps.org/about)

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A Nurses Story

NNA is a professional organization that brings together nurses working in the neonatal field, since it was founded in 1977.

Neonatal Nurse Training in Da Nang Vietnam

In Vietnam, neonatal mortality represents about 70 per cent of infant mortality and more than 50 per cent of under-five mortality. For the last 10 years the Head of Paediatrics, DHWC has been on a quest to improve the health outcomes of newborn infants in Da Nang City and the surrounding provinces. She wanted to improve care of newborn infants and their mothers, but the reality of working in an under-resourced and poor physical environment conspired against making significant changes. There was little time and few resources available to deliver a service capable of significant improvement in outcomes for vulnerable and sick infants. To achieve what looked like an impossible vision she looked to forge international partnerships to help with her quest.

Newborns Vietnam was set up as a UK charity as a direct result of her inspiration and commitment. The charity works in partnership with her and her team to plan, develop and implement a shared vision for the Da Nang Hospital for Women & Children’s neonatal unit. The aim is to become a regional centre of newborn and maternal excellence, improving the survival of newborn infants and their mothers in central Vietnam.

Together we developed a plan to support a holistic transition from basic to more advanced newborn care. We focused our attention on plans for improving the quality of nursing. Lack of specialist training for neonatal nurses is a major contributory factor.

In 2013 the Ministry of Health approved a 3 year partnership for a pilot neonatal nurse training programme to be delivered by Newborns Vietnam & UK Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) at UK Higher & Further Education Qualification Level 4 for nurses working within the Da Nang Hospital for Women & Children neonatal unit, with an associated international research study to evaluate the impact of increased nurse education on mortality and morbidity.
The programme commenced in March 2013 and the first nurses graduated in April 2014.

Whilst the nursing staff worked efficiently and accurately, it was noted that they rarely spoke to the infants, or demonstrated developmentally supportive interactions when they were engaged in the associated tasks. There was poor understanding of the impact of environmental stressors for the babies, the nurseries were very noisy and dirty with too much light and poor hand hygiene.

Overall, the concepts that the nurses were relating to their roles has highlighted that for the majority, there was a change in how they saw themselves in relation to the babies and their families. Their role was no longer just carrying out tasks prescribed by the doctors but that their role had a uniqueness to it that was important to the overall health and well being of the babies and their families.

The nurses have come to understand how to use their new knowledge to assess the baby’s condition and make a decision. There are very clear improvements in positioning, containment, self-comforting and observations and the baby’s are less stressed with greatly improved skin colour.

The nurseries had been cleaned and the general ambience of the unit is less stressful for both staff and babies as it is less bright and quieter. There is heightened awareness of infection prevention measures with significantly improved hand washing. Facilities for Kangaroo Mother Care have been extended to a further eighteen beds for mothers and babies. This continues to be a great success story and is very effective means of caring for even the smallest babies.

There is an improvement in the ratio of babies to nurses, and the babies are now allocated to a nurse to improve the continuity of the care.

At the end of 2014 mortality had reduced by 1.1%, breastfeeding increased by 50%, more skin to skin care, a 30% reduction in the use of antibiotics and length of stay reduced by 1.5 days.

suzanna@newbornsvietnam.org & Denise Evans  UK

Graduating class of 2014
Cultural practices

Turkish Cultural practices

Birth, that gives the mother an identity and completes her, as well as giving confidence to the father and strength to the family, is attributed utmost importance by the couple and their relatives. Some transition customs and ceremonies accompany birth and the phases connected to it.

In the same way that there is a belief that the food and drink a pregnant woman consumes, and the people, animals and things she looks at all affect the child, the same belief applies to the relation between the child and the umbilical cord and placenta. That is why the child’s umbilical cord cannot be thrown away haphazardly without, it is believed, influencing the infant’s future, employment and life.

In the light of this belief, the umbilical cord is buried in the courtyard of a mosque for the child to be a devout person. It is thrown over a wall or into a school garden for the child to be an educated person. It is buried in a stable for the child to be an animal lover or thrown into water for the child to search for his/her destiny elsewhere.

The placenta is described as the end, friend, or comrade of the child. Since the placenta is regarded as part of the child, and even as the child itself, it is wrapped up and buried in a clean place in a clean piece of cloth after birth.

Since women give birth in hospitals today, practices related to the placenta have totally vanished, although customs and beliefs regarding the umbilical cord are still common.

Read more on the falling forties:
http://www.turkishculture.org/lifestyles/ceremonies/birth/birth-traditions-216.htm?type=1

Traditional neonatal care practices in Turkey—Abstract

Identification of the traditional methods of newborn mothers regarding jaundice in Turkey—Abstract
Preemie Corner

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Started by three mothers of five babies born prematurely, this organization supports Bulgarian preemie parents and their babies.

Name: Our Premature Children Foundation

Year Established: 2012

Outreach: Bulgaria

Web: www.premature-bg.com

Programs: Support families, provide information and help with communication between the family and the hospital, doctors, etc.

Cool: The organization had a prematurity awareness campaign May-July 2014 with the slogan “The biggest heroes are the youngest ones.”

RESOURCE:

PreemieWorld provides a free newsletter, Preemie Family, monthly to qualified subscribers worldwide. Professionals can also receive this newsletter each month to print and hand out to their families. Simply go to this page to subscribe: http://bit.ly/PreemieFam4Pros and here is a link to a sample edition: http://bit.ly/PreemieFamily35

About Deb Discenza:

Deb Discenza is the mother of a former 30-weeker girl now 11 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

Get your COINN credit card and help COINN to raise money to support newborns and nurses.