



August 2019 COINN Bulletin

From the COINN President

My name is Karen Walker and I am delighted to be the new President of the Council of International Neonatal Nurses. I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. Born in Scotland, I completed my RGN and RSCN at Great Ormond Street and the Royal London Hospitals before relocating to Sydney, where I then completed my undergraduate, Masters and PhD. I've worked in multiple roles over my long career, as a clinical nurse, a nurse specialist, educator, retrieval nurse and as a researcher.

At the moment, I have two synergistic roles which allow me to work in both maternal and neonatal health. I'm the Global Women's Health Program Manager responsible for leading The George Institute's Global Women's Health Program strategy and research in Australia and Research Manager in the neonatal unit at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. I'm also a Clinical Associate Professor with the University of Sydney, the current President of the Australian College of Neonatal Nurses and a founding member of the Alliance for Global Neonatal Nurses in the USA. I sit on international committees and work with the World Health Organisation and other international groups both in Australia and internationally.

I'm happy to say that COINN has a stable board of expert nurses that are committed to remaining on the board. I'm also excited to say that we have expanded the board and welcome three new members; Dr Wakako Eklund from Japan/USA, Ms Leilani Kahoano from Hawaii and Professor Marsha Campbell-Yeo from Canada. They individually and collectively will bring much experience, passion and expertise to our committee.

We have lots of plans for COINN moving forward with the further development of our special interest groups and partnerships, conferences, education and training and meetings all over the world. Please follow the COINN website for more information and how to become involved (<https://coinnurses.org>) and we will also keep you up to date through the COINN pages in the Journal of Neonatal Nurses.

I very much look forward to the next three years and hope to get the opportunity to meet with many of you.

Warm regards, Karen

A/Prof Karen Walker
President COINN
boardpresident@coinnurses.org

Greetings from COINN Communication Committee

Judy Hitchcock, Chair:

A very warm welcome to our, long over due August update - a testimony to how busy the first half of the year has been for COINN - with so much to share with you, I have been racking my brains about just how to share diverse content. And I have decided, at least for this update, to divide news into three unimaginative titled review sections - namely *Past, Present, and Future* - and hope that it will make for easier assimilation of all that COINN has to share. Let me start with whats upper most and review the whats happening right now.

The PAST

The 10th COINN conference "Enriched Family - Enhanced Care" in Auckland, New Zealand, in May 2019 was a tremendous success and testimony to the organizing committee's hard work over the past few years since the COINN Vancouver conference in 2016. Over 27 countries were represented at this exciting meeting; over 400 participants enjoyed sharing knowledge and experiences.



We have had such an overwhelming response for reflections on the COINN 2019 that we have decided [to share reviews and photos on the Journal of Neonatal Nursing webpage](#). Here is only one participant comment (Kate Cameron, neonatal staff nurse, United Kingdom):

"The sessions were well-presented and contained much useful information which could be taken back to my unit and incorporated into my practice. There was a wide variety of relevant topics to choose from. The sessions also gave me an insight into the bigger picture of neonatal nursing internationally. I am a newly qualified nurse and I think many junior nurses are hesitant to attend COINN as they believe it is a conference for experienced practitioners. But I am really glad that I attended as I learnt so much and did not feel too out of my depth - I am hoping to persuade other newly qualified nurses to attend. In relation to networking, the presenters and attendees made me feel and people were keen to talk about their work and passion for neonatal nursing. I am very lucky to have met so many inspirational people at the conference and to have made new friends. Finally, it was great to learn about recent neonatal research and current neonatal care in different countries and compare it with our own. It was also so interesting to learn about the impact of COINN on neonatal nursing practice, research and education globally".

The PRESENT

International Neonatal Nurses Day (INND) 15 August is an opportunity to celebrate all that we do to make the lives of infants and their families better and increase the recognition of the impact of neonatal nurses globally. We especially need to support neonatal nurses who provide care in countries with limited resources. We need to start the 2020 INND planning to raise the profile and value of neonatal nurses during The Year of the Nurse. Please share your ideas and suggestions for promoting neonatal nursing. We would also love to hear how you intend to mark International Neonatal Nurses Day on August 15th. Contact COINN and we can share your story.



COINN has a new President, [Dr. Karen Walker](#); the founding president, Dr. Carole Kenner remains our COINN CEO.



The President and CEO (Drs. Walker and Kenner) have recently participated in several meetings with USAID, WHO, Save The Children, Project Hope, IPA - organizations that are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically improving global infant mortality statistics. This vital work continues to bring into sharp focus the vital role of neonatal nurses in effecting infant survival as well as the need to raise the standards for neonatal nursing practice and education.

Dr. Kenner recently attended the ICN conference where the [Nursing Now](#) campaign

was promoted. This is a three year global effort to increase the visibility of nurses and midwives. This campaign is to celebrate Florence Nightingale's 200th birthday in 2020. So, 2020 is the [Year of the Nurse and Midwife](#). COINN is committed to supporting the participating employers and participants as part of the [Nightingale Challenge](#). This challenge for 2020 encourages every large employer of nurses and midwives to provide leadership and development training for 20 young nurses and midwives in 2020. Our aim is to have at least 20,000 young nurses and midwives benefiting from this initiative. COINN is keen to encourage employers of nurses to join this challenge and we would love to hear about your participation.



News from COINN Education Committee

COINN Education Committee is pleased to announce that the first version of neonatal nursing competencies (for countries where such document is absent) will be published in October 2019 and be available for free download from the [Journal of Neonatal Nursing](#) (JNN), the official journal of COINN and Neonatal Nurses Association (NNA, United Kingdom), published by Elsevier UK. We need to tell our story through this journal. Please consider submitting your articles to the Journal of Neonatal Nursing.

Currently, there are several educational materials are being developed for low resourced countries for neonatal nurses. They will be available on YouTube and the COINN website in the very near future. If you are interested in joining this committee contact the Chair, Tracey Jones: Tracey.M.Jones[at]manchester.ac.uk

News from COINN Communication Committee

COINN Communication Committee welcomes new members: Davika Ried, Joanne Unsworth, and Teresa Marin, all keen to help disseminate COINN news through the website and social media. We are exploring the opportunity of the development of research networks to help nurses wanting to work together on global projects.

Julia Petty (UK; NNA Executive Member and NNA Vice Chair; COINN Board Director) has published "["Neonatal Stories"](#) online to support parents during their journey through the neonatal unit experience.

THE FUTURE

Upcoming Conferences

COINN Kenya conference will take place in Nairobi, Kenya on 12-16 November 2019. For more information, please https://www.global-engagement.org/professional_program/coinn-neonatal-care-conference-kenya/

[iENS \(joint European Neonatal societies\) Congress](#) will take place in Maastricht, Netherlands on 16-21 September 2019; COINN will hold a session on Wednesday afternoon discussing the changing role of Neonatal Nurses.

[Hawaii neonatal nursing conference "Global Neonatal Nurses Institute"](#) is also planned for October, 2019.

[Alliance for Global Neonatal Nursing \(ALIGNN\)](#) meeting is planned for 2020 (more information will be available later - stay tuned!).

News from GLANCE

A global patient voice for Newborn and Maternal Health

End of June, the first Global Alliance for Newborn Care (GLANCE) Founding Committee Meeting took place in Munich, Germany. [GLANCE](#) is a global network, initiated and

coordinated under the umbrella of the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI), to represent the interests of babies born too soon, too small or too sick and their families. GLANCE aims at including parents from all parts of the world to exchange knowledge and experience.

At the first Founding Committee Meeting, 14 international parent representatives from Europe, Turkey, Africa, Australia, the United States, Canada and Mexico as well as representatives of EFCNI, gathered and worked together not only to make progress in structural and organisational regards, but also to settle for areas of activities and to decide on first global campaigns. As a result, the four key topics 'Girls' and women's health', 'Pregnancy and birth', 'Newborn treatment and care', and 'Follow-up and continuing care' could be identified. The work of GLANCE will focus on these topics to achieve sustainable and holistic improvements in newborn and maternal health while taking into account the respective cultural, historical and socio-economic backgrounds and needs of families. Moreover, the group could also elaborate a global Call to Action* with eight demands to advance the care for babies born too soon, too small or too sick and the support, given to their families.

“My work with EFCNI has shown me the striking disparities in neonatal healthcare we are facing in Europe. Through EFCNI's partnership with international organisations like COINN, Save the Children, UNICEF, and USAID I learnt that there are worldwide issues EFCNI, as a European based organisation, cannot tackle. We need first-hand information about the most pressing needs in regions like Africa, Asia our South America and even more important, contacts and spokespersons on site. Therefore, we must establish a strong global network to efficiently join forces and to become a powerful voice for all these children and their parents.”, stated EFCNI Chairwoman Silke Mader.

GLANCE strives to expand its network of collaborating partners in the future, to represent sick newborns and their parents in each region or continent. The website, www.glance-network.org, will be online on World Prematurity Day, November 17, 2019.

For updates please follow:

Facebook: @GlanceNetwork

Twitter: @GLANCE_Network

Instagram: @glance_network

The Call to Action will be available for download on www.glance-network.org from 17 November 2019.

News from EFCNI

[EFCNI](http://www.efcni.org) proudly announces Professor Luc Zimmermann as Senior Medical Director of EFCNI as of 1st October 2019. As a widely recognised paediatrician and neonatologist, Professor Zimmermann will contribute to the strategic direction of EFCNI and to our

mission of improving the situation of mothers and newborn infants worldwide across the full spectrum of care, promoting and protecting the right to the best start in life. Professor Zimmermann, past president of the European Society of Pediatric Research (ESPR), has been an active member of several EFCNI boards for many years and is a close and valuable partner of the foundation. Beside his new role at EFCNI, he will continue working part time within his current positions as professor at the department of paediatrics and at the research institute GROW, both at Maastricht UMC+ in The Netherlands. The entire EFCNI team warmly welcomes Professor Zimmermann as a new member of staff.

Warm regards,

Silke Mader

Chairwoman of the Executive Board

GEI: Neonatal nursing news from KENYA

There have been serious efforts to identify tasks relevant for the care of inpatient neonates and establishing the minimum standard with which these tasks should be delivered to inpatient neonates in Kenyan hospitals. These standard tasks are normally not established in many hospitals in the country and most of the nurses who are working in newborn units do not go under a proper training in order to feel capable to perform these tasks. This is just one important topic along with other essential topics relevant to the African struggle to establish a systematic recognition for neonatal nursing. This is why we are in [Global Engagement Institute \(GEI\)](#) along with our partners in the Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN) still continuing to support all the possible local and regional efforts in Africa to advance this agenda. In order to further support this process, COINN and GEI have decided to select Kenya as the host destination for our second Africa Conference under the theme *Universal Health Care: Saving the Newborn*. Professionals and students in nursing, midwifery, neonatology, pediatrics, public health and related fields meet in the beautiful Kenyan capital Nairobi for two days of knowledge and experience sharing (November 14-15, 2019). The conference is co-organized with the Association of Neonatal Nurses-Kenya (ANNK) and the University of Nairobi (UoN). It goes without saying that the Kenyan hosts are very keen to continue their path of professional development. They particularly welcome all of you to travel to their beautiful country and engage in further professional dialogue. Among others, we will also offer pre-conference workshops in leadership and to obtain learner qualification for the S.T.A.B.L.E. curriculum. To register for this conference, please follow this link: https://www.global-engagement.org/professional_program/coinn-neonatal-care-conference-kenya/ For more details on joining one of our ongoing neonatal care delegations to learn, teach and contribute into the capacity development quest in different countries, please see our program dates below or contact us directly for inquiries: programs@global-engagement.org

Upcoming programs:

Newborn Care Aug 17-24, 2019 Rwanda

Aug 24-Sep 1, 2019 Kenya

Nov 12-16, 2019 Kenya (COINN conference in Africa)

Nov 30-Dec 6, 2019 Vietnam

Mar 14-21, 2020 Vietnam

May 30-June 6, 2020 Kenya

Nurses report from the 55th Congress of Japan Society of Perinatal and Neonatal Medicine in Matsumoto, Japan

The 55th Annual Congress of Japan Society of Perinatal and Neonatal Medicine” (July 13-15, 2019) brought a crowd to one Japanese historic city, Matsumoto in Nagano Prefecture. Dr. Aya Shimizu reports that this year’s conference theme emphasized the critical nature of the care given during the perinatal/neonatal period and its impact on the national health and life expectancy. Nearly 2000 obstetrical professionals, 1000 neonatologists/pediatricians and 500 non-physician health professionals gathered for learning and sharing while also taking in the cultural richness of this historic region. Matsumoto city takes pride in having one of the oldest and most beautiful ancient castles which was built in the 16th century. Matsumoto castle has received the designation as a “National Treasure”. (readers may enjoy the photos of the castle at <https://www.matsumoto-castle.jp/lang/>) With this area’s natural beauty surrounded by the Japanese Alps and centuries of history, any visitor will not miss the definite pulse that is palpable in the city.

This annual Congress is primarily a medical conference, however, nursing has had a strong presence annually. This year was not an exception with nursing professionals actively participating and presenting. Some of the COINN 2019 participants were among them. Some of the highlights of nursing contributions included discussions on the artistry and the power of nursing care and assessment during and after the “in and out” surfactant administration. This report was given by Mr. Gaku Nishimiya MS RN. Mrs. Kaori Saitoh RN CNNIC reported the impact of nursing to advocate for family-centered care during the use of technology such as Neurally Adjusted Ventilatory Assist modality. She also shared that most important take-home message she received was to be mindful of the critical role of mothers in NICU to the neonatal neurodevelopmental outcomes.

A special symposium was held to showcase various roles of nurses in neonatal/perinatal settings. Japan is challenged by physician workforce shortage, which will likely be accentuated by the recent national policy to reduce physician workload. This national policy encourages innovative utilization of existing non-physician workforce. Nursing members seized this opportunity to design a multidisciplinary session to discuss nursing potential. Miss Mieko Uchida RN NW, board director of Japan Academy of Neonatal Nursing chaired this session to present “now and future of

nursing” for all to consider. Mrs. Miho Kunishima RN MW CNNIC PHN opened the session to describe the newly reviewed and expanded educational pathway for the existing Neonatal Intensive Care certification course. The added education will increase the certified nurses with more tools to support infants and families. Dr. Miki Konishi PhD RN PHN presented the education and role of neonatal nurse practitioners which is well-established overseas as a potential solution for the future workforce shortage in Japan. She informed the Japanese audience that such role to compliment the NICU workforce has existed in several COINN member countries for decades. She further discussed how current policy that regulates nursing practice may not be well-aligned with future of nursing and its potential. Mrs. Kunishima recollects how she enjoyed being reconnected with several Japanese nurses whom she became acquainted with while attending COINN conference in New Zealand. Networking in NZ may have rippling effect to enrich the professional collaboration and to strengthen the bond among the members! Nurses are making a difference in Japan and their voice is loud and clear that Nursing would continue to move forward and Nurses are leaders in healthcare!



COINN NZ members enjoyed reconnecting in Matsumoto city, Japan. (From left, Miho Kunishima, Gaku Nishimiya and Kaori Saitoh)



Mrs. Miho Kunishima presenting regarding the recently redesigned educational pathway and qualification system for the Japanese Neonatal Intensive Care Certification program. This panel opened with Kunishima's report and concluded with Dr. Konishi's report.

*by Mieko Uchida RN MW,
Miki Konishi PhD RN PHN,
Aya Shimizu PhD RN MW,
Phiho Kunishima RN NMW CNNIC PHN,
Gaku Nishimiya MS RN, Kaori Saitoh RN CNNIC*
