From the Desk of the President

Colleagues,

COINN is growing! There is a new neonatal organization forming in Kenya. Individual memberships are up! The recognition of the importance of neonatal nursing and its impact on neonatal/family outcomes is expanding. Yet there are many challenges. The needs of each region of the world are a bit different. Equipment, availability of services, expertise of healthcare workers including professional nurses vary. COINN is working with several different organization to address these challenges.

Board Secretary Sue Prullage, COINN representative from Argentina Ana Quiroga, and I attended a UNICEF, WHO, USAID meeting in April to address the needs of small and sick newborns and their families. The International Council of Nurses (ICN), International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), Save the Children, European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants, International Paediatric Association (IPA), and others participated in this working meeting. Out of that meeting came the opportunity to submit a resolution to the World Health Assembly in May 2018 to recognize neonatal nursing as a specialty. While the resolution did not move forward it was the first time such a request was made. The other outcome of the UNICEF meeting was to have board member Agnes van den Hoogen to participate in a high level TRIAD meeting in Geneva. The TRIAD - ICN, ICM, WHO - focused
on strengthening the nursing and midwifery workforce. Leadership from around the world came together to begin to build strategies to improve the healthcare nursing workforce.

As we address the issues of visibility of nursing in outcomes and the lack of clarity of who is and what does a neonatal nurse do, we are calling for stories to highlight the work of neonatal nurses and midwives. If you want to tell your story please go to https://coinnurses.org/2018/07/02/who-are-we-the-nurses-and-midwives-that-care-for-neonates/

COINN Rwanda conference is coming in October, 2018. We are excited to be coming to Africa. From our work with other organizations, we are proud to announce that Save the Children, USAID, WHO, Partners in Health, and others will be participating in the conference. More about this conference later in this bulletin.

COINN 2019 Conference Enriched Families-Enhance Care, 5-8 May, Auckland, New Zealand is really shaping up. Please join us as this is promising to be a most exciting gathering. The call for abstracts is now open: http://www.coinn2019.com/abstracts/call-for-abstracts/

COINN is moving to 2 year schedule for its main international conference, so the call for the COINN conference proposals in 2021 is open (until September, 2018). If your organization is interested, please see the guidelines and submit your application at https://coinnurses.org/2018/05/14/call-for-coinn-conference-hosting-2021/

We are also welcoming our new COINN board member Tanya Bishop. Tanya joins us from the Canadian Association of Neonatal Nurses. Glad to have her on the board!

With gratitude for all that you do to support neonates and families,

Carole Kenner, PhD, RN, FAAN, FNAP, ANEF
CEO/President
Partnership with the World Continuing Education Alliance

ICN has entered into a partnership agreement with the WCEA to create a global network of continuing nursing education courses.

The network of courses is accessed by organisations around the world who can select the courses that they would like for their nursing team / members.

ICN member organisations receive special terms for accessing the platform and associations can also share education with each other through the network.

An important focus of the initiative is to distribute education to nurses in developing regions. When educators charge for their education, they are requested to offer their education to nurses in developing regions for free.

If you are an educator looking to sell / distribute your education around the world, or an association, hospital or legislator that would like access to the education network, please email icn@wcea.education or visit http://www.wcea.education/
New Frontiers for African Neonatal Care

GEI: The Story of Neonatal Nursing in Rwanda

Back in 2010, neonatal care became the first major intervention field for our Professional Development Programs in the Global Engagement Institute (GEI). Ever since, many of you joined our delegations to Rwanda and Vietnam in order to connect with local professional colleagues and to help them develop the profession. Today, it’s time for celebration!

Our interventions particularly focused on key skills such as saving newborns from birth asphyxia and providing them with appropriate essential care. But far beyond, the Rwandan and Vietnamese colleagues have benefited from countless conversations and discussions in which they learned to develop a profession that received rather little recognition and support.

One culmination of this process - and we certainly cannot claim any direct role in it - is the recent creation of a Rwanda Association of Neonatal Nurses (RANN). Over 100 Rwandan nurses and midwives, including students of the Advanced Neonatal Health course at the University of Rwanda, came together to create RANN and joined COINN in 2015. Members of RANN developed a strategic plan, vision and
mission statements, education statements, and elected a first governing board. The current board, in January 2018, identified the key priority to obtain official governmental recognition of the neonatal nurses' organization. Further plans include provision of specialized education, engagement in policy making, and expanding the membership.

In order to support RANN, COINN and GEI have decided to select Rwanda as the host destination for COINN's first-ever Africa Conference on Neonatal Nursing. It will take place on October 5-6, 2018; the main theme is "New Frontiers for African Neonatal Care".

The Rwandan hosts are very keen to continue developing professional neonatal nursing. Rwandan nurses and midwives welcome all neonatal colleagues to travel to the beautiful country and engage in professional dialogue. COINN's Africa Conference will also offer pre-conference workshops to obtain master trainer qualification for the Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) curriculum and learner qualification for the S.T.A.B.L.E. curriculum.

For more details on joining one of our delegations to learn, teach and contribute into the capacity development quest in Rwanda and Vietnam, please see our program dates below or visit our website: https://www.global-engagement.org/professionals/health/neonatal-care-rwanda/

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 03-10, 2018</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
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<td>July 21-28, 2018</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
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<td>September 22-29, 2018</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
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<td>Sep 29-Oct 07, 2018</td>
<td>Rwanda (COINN conference in Africa)</td>
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<td>December 1-8, 2018</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
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Support Organization

**Amiamusica** was founded in Zurich, Switzerland in 2017. It was created with and for parents of preterm infants and aims at promoting the use of music for empowering parents and premature or newborn children by sharing experiences, gathering and disseminating knowledge, and enhancing skills and participation.

Executive Director **Friederike Haslbeck** notes, "We are interested in sharing experiences with music and premature birth. We are keen to hear from other parents what they experience, recommend and want to ask."

**Check These Out:**

- Amiamusica has a new lullaby book from parents for parents of preterm infants and it may be viewed and/or purchased here: [https://amiamusica.ch/wiegenlieder/](https://amiamusica.ch/wiegenlieder/)
- The organization also has a blog ([https://amiamusica.ch/blog/](https://amiamusica.ch/blog/)) that they invite you to contribute to, comment on and read at [https://amiamusica.ch/](https://amiamusica.ch/)
Professional Tip:
Looking for a solid support resource for your families? Like many NICUs and SCBUs, you should consider recommending the free and privacy-focused Preemie inspire group on [https://www.inspire.com/](https://www.inspire.com/) at [https://www.inspire.com/groups/preemie/](https://www.inspire.com/groups/preemie/) to your families. Moderated by PreemieWorld’s Deb Discenza, this group boasts over 31,000 parents of preemies worldwide and has active discussion rooms such as "In the NICU/PICU", “Fathers of Preemies”, “Preemies with CP”, “Preemies with Feeding Issues” and “At Home, Years 1-5” and "At Home, Years 6-12” and more.

About Deb Discenza:
Deb Discenza is the mother of a former 30-weeker girl now 14 years old and amazing! Deb is the co-author of the critically-acclaimed book The Preemie Parent’s Survival Guide to the NICU available at [http://preemieworld.com/](http://preemieworld.com/)

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Neonatal Nursing Stories Contests

**WHO ARE WE?**

**THE NURSES AND MIDWIVES THAT CARE FOR NEONATES**

The Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN) is interested in hearing from the nurses and midwives that care for neonates! We would like to know and share your experiences - please, include the good and the bad. What are the challenges in caring for neonates in your unit/clinic/hospital? What do you think is going well? What do you need to do your job? What would you like to share with your colleagues over the globe? Please tell us your story and, please, use examples and photos to demonstrate your experiences in helping neonates.

The purpose of this contest is to document our experiences, our challenges and joys of caring for neonates and families. Only by documenting our experiences we can demonstrate the uniqueness of our job and specialty. Please be frank and honest about the joys and pains of caring for the neonate in the area where you
work - sharing these experiences will help us to improve care for our little ones!

Judging is done by a panel of four judges, comprising a neonatal nurse, a neonatal midwife and two neonatal educators. Based on the aggregate scores from the four judges, the winners will be selected and awarded the prize as detailed in the guidelines.

The COINN contest: “Who are we?” Short Story Competition 2018
Begins – 12:01 a.m. July 1, 2018 (US Central time)
Ends – Midnight, August 14, 2018 (US Central time)

Articles and Reports of Interest


EFCNI Update

Supporting Human Milk Banks

Breast milk is the best and first choice for the nutrition of newborns and especially for preterm born infants. Whenever mothers are not (yet) able to breastfeed their child, donor milk is the second best option. To ensure the supply of breast and donor milk for preterm infants, the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI), collaborative partner of COINN, initiated an international project with the aim to support clinical centres in Germany, Switzerland and Austria in the setup and operation of human milk banks on a national level. For this purpose, a position paper containing recommendations for the support of milk banks as well as a toolkit for interested institutions has been developed by an interdisciplinary project Scientific Advisory Board, composed of well-known experts in the fields of lactation, nutrition, obstetrics, and neonatology.

For the position paper “Recommendations for promoting human milk banks in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland” the project Board compared and summarised current guidelines from several European countries. Based on their work and experiences, the Board developed recommendations for the support of human milk banks in the three respective countries. These recommendations reflect the current scientific consensus and take feasibility into account. The “Toolkit for establishing and organising human milk banks” was developed with the aim to support clinical centres with practical advice. It contains examples of best-practise, concrete instructions, and templates for checklists and information leaflets. Both publications can be downloaded free of charge from the website https://www.efcni.org/activities/publications/efcniprojects/

Outlook: Workshops

As a pilot for the new EFCNI Academy, two workshops on the setup and organisation of milk banks will be carried out in Germany in autumn 2018. During the one-day workshops, international experts will give insight into the work of established milk banks and share their experiences and expertise. The workshops are intended for paediatricians, lactation consultants, neonatal nurses, as well as
other healthcare professionals who are interested in milk banks. Further workshops are planned.

Link: https://www.efcni.org/activities/projects/milk-banks/

**COINN Education Committee**

The COINN Education Committee has revised and published several position statements and policies. They include a Statement on Research; Child Health, Poverty, and Breastfeeding; Ethical Migration of Neonatal Nurses; Neonatal Nursing Education; Kangaroo Mother Care, Care of the Well Term Infant, Breastfeeding, and Use of Social Media. For more information please go to COINN resources.

We are also working on developing competencies to define neonatal nurses globally.
Call for Members of New Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Committee

Are you an advance practice nurse, nurse practitioner candidate or an endorsed nurse practitioner specializing in working with neonates? If so we would like to hear from you.

The Council of International Neonatal Nurses supports the establishment of a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Committee to gain a better understanding of the global picture of neonatal nurse practitioners from training/endorsement through to current scope of practice, ongoing education and research.

Please send an email to ceo@coinnurses.org identifying your current position/title, a brief overview of your scope of practice and country of residence.

Please also indicate if you would be interested in joining the committee board made up of chair / secretary / 2-4 ordinary members. This group will meet every eight weeks (via teleconference or online) to discuss current practice, changes in practice and global similarities or differences to support care given to neonates over the globe as well as to inform the work of the COINN's education, research and social media committees.

Thank you
Amy Forbes-Coe, Chair
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Queensland, Australia

Council of International Neonatal Nurses Affiliation with the Journal of Neonatal Nursing

“Advancing neonatal nursing care, education and research globally”
Julia Petty, UK; NNA Executive Member / NNA Vice Chair; COINN Board Director
The *Journal of Neonatal Nursing (JNN)* published by Elsevier UK will serve both the UK Neonatal Nurses Association (NNA) and COINN. This affiliation offers a platform for dissemination of our work as well as offering opportunities for our members to share their global practice, educational projects, and research activities. This new partnership will have the following aims and associated benefits:

- To disseminate our members’ activities and work to further their knowledge in global neonatal nursing practice.
- To share best practices across global boundaries.
- To broaden awareness among our COINN membership and JNN readership about pertinent, global issues affecting neonatal and family care.
- To encourage and disseminate scholarly activity and publications from a broad range of countries on key issues.
- To further the reputation and global reach of COINN and the JNN with the hope of increasing membership / readership.
- To serve as a well-recognized global platform and showcase of good practices in clinical, research and academic fields in relation to optimum care for neonates and families.

COINN really is excited about this partnership. *Advancing neonatal nursing care, education and research globally* is a tagline that captures the core essence of the global neonatal nursing. We also welcome the two new JNN co-editors: Breidge Boyle and Leslie Altimier who bring to the journal and the readership their expertise and experience. We look forward to working collaboratively to share our knowledge and learn from each other. Please consider submitting materials to the Journal of Neonatal Nursing.
Neonatal Nurses: What would you like to see COINN do?

COINN belongs to you. So, as we move toward the end of 2018, what do you think is a priority for COINN for the coming year? Is there something that you would like COINN to address to improve neonatal nursing education, improve neonatal nursing care, or promote research? What organizations should we partner with in the future? Please let us hear from you. Please send your thoughts to us!

If you have events or news that you would like to share with your colleagues over the globe, please send them to us too.

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