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Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN) News page

Compiled by Julia Petty, COINN UK representative

This month, the COINN News page presents feedback on Board member's representation at four key international events held in China, Rwanda, Bucharest and Hawaii in the autumn of 2018.

China conference

Two COINN board members, A/Prof Karen Walker and Dr Agnes van den Hoogen were invited to attend the First Congress of Global Children

Healthcare Collaboration and Cerebral Palsy Alliance in Changsha, Hunan Province, China from 14th-16th September. This meeting had over 800 attendees, with delegates from all over the world. This was a great opportunity to present on the importance of neonatal nurses in saving lives and preventing disability and to network with colleagues in Hunan Children's Hospital. Agnes and Karen also met with the Vice-President of the Hospital and Director of Nursing, Mrs. Zhu Lihui and agreed to co-host a neonatal conference in 2020. Such an exciting proposal to expand our collaborations and network. The conference was very much supported by the president of the hospital Dr Tan Lihong.



African Regional Conference

The First Council of International Neonatal Nurses, Inc. (COINN), Global Engagement Institute (GEI), and the Rwanda Association of Neonatal Nurses (RANN): New Frontier for African Neonatal Care Conference was held on October 5 & 6, 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda. Over 300 participants from the African region. The participants were from Burundi, Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Zambia and of course Rwanda. Presenters came from all over Africa as well such as Mali, Zambia, Kenya, United States, and Rwanda. This was a wonderful time for sharing expertise among nurses, physicians, ministry of health, and many NGOs. This event highlighted the commitment to advancing neonatal nursing globally. Courses in basic care were offered through the S.T.A.B.L.E. and Helping Babies Breathe programs. S.T.A.B.L.E was taught as a pre-conference course on October 4, 2018. For the pre-conference we had 150 participants, and all passed the course and now are certified STABLE learners. Helping Babies Breathe had 135 participants.

A few African nurses participated in focus group discussions. The purpose was to explore what the challenges, opportunities, and aspirations neonatal nurses face in providing day to day care and education. Following these discussions, thought leaders from global organizations-USAID, WHO, Rwanda Midwifery Organization, RANN, COINN, GEI, Save The Children, Partners in Health, BirthLink, Premature Birth Initiative, Project Hope, and Chiesi Foundation held a dinner meeting to plan a way forward to advance neonatal nursing and thereby improve neonatal care. A roadmap will be drafted to identify the steps needed to impact neonatal nursing education and care practices.

The participants were very engaged and eager to learn. Many participants expressed the need for an annual neonatal nursing conference. Kenya has already volunteered to host the next conference. We will keep you up to date. Don't miss this next opportunity to hear about the care of the neonates in Africa.

UCSF Preterm Birth Initiative (PTBi)

In Kigali, two days before our COINN conference, UCSF PTBi held their conference and A/Prof Karen Walker was invited to speak to represent COINN. Again, we highlighted the importance of neonatal nurses in saving lives and preventing disability. This forum, attended my delegates from all over Africa and the US, provided a rich environment for networking, education and plan research collaborations.



Bucharest: 8th International Congress of the union of European Neonatal and Perinatal Societies (UENPS). 3rd to 5th of October 2018

Agnes van den Hoogen and Julia Petty (pictured below) attended this Congress to represent COINN and speak about it's work, adding a nursing perspective to this largely medical audience. Held in Bucharest's Palace of Parliament, a range of topics was covered in the programme including resuscitation, infection, neurology, surgery, pain and stress, nutrition and family centred care with oral presentations delivered by clinicians across the globe. Our contribution came within a section named 'Research priorities- Global perspectives'.



Agnes presented firstly on a Delphi study that explored research priorities within Europe, Australia and New Zealand and future work relating to this global survey. Julia then followed with a session on ‘Innovations in education and training’ which focused on an overview of current evidence-based trends in learning and teaching within the neonatal field, in the light of the challenges of educating the global

workforce. Agnes delivered her second session ‘Connecting neonatal nurses around the world’ which gave a comprehensive summary of COINNs’ aims and work, along with the importance of global networking for neonatal nurses to have a voice within vital international initiatives and developments relating to infant and family health and care. Finally, Odie Frauenfelder and her colleague completed this group of concurrent sessions and talked about ‘New professional roles in neonatology: challenges and legislation’.

These concurrent sessions were well received, generating some sound discussion and interest from the audience members. Together the four sessions combined, worked effectively to relay an important message about neonatal nurse’s role in global developments within research, education and training that aims to not only enhance knowledge and skills of the global neonatal workforce but ultimately to benefit babies and families across the world. Another key message was the need to work together with the same aim and to continue this valuable networking. It is vital to get these messages across on an international platform and to continue to be part these events, so that the work of COINN and the vision and voice of its’ members are disseminated widely.

HAWAII- Caring for Hawaii Neonates: ALIGNN & 2018 Global Neonatal Nursing Institute

Congratulations to Hawaii for another beautiful and spiritual conference. This meeting represented the second meeting of the ALIGNN network- Academy of Neonatal Nurses, Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nurses, COINN, and National Association of Neonatal Nurses and importantly Caring for Hawaiian Neonates (C4HN). This is a most important alliance to address issues that impact all of the US based neonatal nursing organizations and bring them together.

The importance of culture in nursing practice was highlighted and the conference commenced with an excellent presentation from Deb Fraser, executive director for ANN, with an intriguing title “the constant gardener – neonatal nursing today”. As VP for COINN, Karen Walker attended and presented, and from someone who has attended and spoken at many conferences, this small but growing conference is her favourite. Next year, the dates are October 24th and 25th and she has already booked to go back for it.

News and dates for the diary

COINN's 2019 Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand 5-8 May 2019.

The theme is Enriched Families-Enhanced Care. Calls for abstracts and registration are now open. For more information on the venue, themes, speakers, details on how to register, please go to the website.... <http://www.coinn2019.com/>



Call for 2019 Neonatal Nurse Excellence Awards

The Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN) are recognizing and encouraging excellence in neonatal nursing by presenting the fifth International Neonatal Nursing Excellence Award to nurses working in newborn care who are making an impact to raise the quality of care. The Award will be presented at the opening ceremony of COINN 2019 in New Zealand in May, 2019. To nominate a neonatal nurse for this award, please contact ceo@coinnurses.org

Competencies

COINN’s Education Committee continues the work on developing competencies for neonatal nurses globally. This work is aimed to assist those countries that have no formal training or regulatory recognition for a nurse caring for the small and sick baby. This work is based on models from countries that have a competency foundation. This work will increase the status and visibility of the role neonatal nurses have in saving lives and preventing disabilities.

For further information on any of these items, contact Julia Petty j.petty@herts.ac.uk