



Neonatal On-Line Education (NOLE)

Speaker Biographies

WEBINAR #1 – Live a Great Story and Webinar #5 - Infant-Driven Caregiving

KARA ANN WAITZMAN, OTR/L, CNT, NTMTC- Kara Ann has been a neonatal therapist for over 25 years in a level III NICU and serves as the nursery's developmental specialist. Kara Ann is president of Creative Therapy Consultants, Founder of the Neonatal Touch & Massage Certification (NTMC), and Co-Founder of Infant-Driven Feeding®. She is certified in NTMC, is Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Therapy (NDT) trained, certified in NIDCAP, and earned the Neonatal Developmental Care Specialist Designation through NANN. She served on AWHONN's Continuum of Care Advisory Board, and currently serves on National Association of Neonatal Therapists' Professional Collaborative as well as the March of Dimes Program Services board. Kara Ann has been a nationally sought after speaker, educator, and consultant for over a decade and has published articles on positioning and feeding, and written a chapter on Neuromotor Development and Massage. She developed and sells DVDs on Massage, Skin-to-Skin, and Swaddled Bathing. Kara Ann has received professional awards including the Ohio Occupational Therapy Pediatric Model Practice Award, the March of Dimes Healthcare Worker of the Year Award, the MVH Excellence in Service Award and the 2015 Inaugural Pioneer in Neonatal Therapy Award from the National Association of Neonatal Therapists.

WEBINAR #2 – Brain and Sensory Development: Applications for Clinical Practice in the NICU

AUNE HJARTARSON, OT Reg. (Ont) – Aune is an experienced Occupational Therapist in a large NICU at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. She received her undergraduate Psychology Degree and Occupational Therapy Degree from McMaster University. She is chair of the Developmental Care Committee, and provides comprehensive education for Neonatal Units and clinicians across the Region on neuroprotective care, feeding and swallowing, and complex discharge planning. Aune is an internationally sought after speaker, educator, and consultant. She lectures in the McMaster University Masters OT program on developmentally supportive care and the role of occupational therapy with premature and high risk infants. She has published in the area of clinical and videofluoroscopic assessment of aspiration in high risk infants. Aune is passionate about neuroprotective care and the importance of education to empower families and caregivers, and optimize the long term outcomes for preterm and high risk infants. Aune was awarded the OT Practice Excellence Award for 2013.

WEBINAR #3 – Pain: An Undeniable Indicator for Caregiver Intervention ELIZABETH

JEANSON, PT, DPT, CNT, NTMTC- Dr. Elizabeth Jeanson currently serves as the Developmental Specialist in Neonatal Intensive Care at Sanford/USD Medical Center. Dr. Jeanson was NIDCAP trained, Infant Behavioral Assessment and Neonatal Network Neurobehavioral Scale certified. She is also a certified infant massage instructor and a certified child passenger safety technician (car seat). Recently Dr. Jeanson completed her Neonatal Touch and Massage Therapy certification. She is a certified neonatal therapist. In her current position Dr. Jeanson is responsible for direct and indirect implementation of developmental family centered care in a large level 3 neonatal intensive care unit. Dr. Jeanson has spoken regionally on topics including sensory development of preterm infants, positioning of infants in NICU, non-pharmacologic pain management for preterm infants, supporting the development of post term infants in the NICU, as well as team building and strategic planning for multidisciplinary teams. She published, One to One Bedside Nurse Education as a Means to Improve Positioning Consistency in 2013. Dr. Jeanson's passion is improving the outcomes of premature infants through cautious/thoughtful intervention, family support and staff education.

WEBINAR #4 – Positioning & Handling of the Neonate

VIRGINIA MCGILL, PT, DPT, PCS, CLWT, NTMTC - Virginia McGill or Ginny received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Creighton University in 2001. She then practiced in Phoenix, Arizona in home care for developmentally delayed children and adults before transitioning in to the inpatient setting at Phoenix Children's Hospital. She began neonatal practice in 2003. Neonatal therapy has been her practice focus from since then and has continued in Anchorage, Alaska where she moved in 2008. Ginny is now the Neonatal Therapy Supervisor for The Children's Hospital at Providence Alaska Medical Center. She has developed competencies for therapy practice and nursing education programs for developmental care quality improvement. She has participated in VON work and the development of practice for micro premie care and kangaroo care. She has a special interest in skin care and is part of the NICU wound care team after receiving certification in wound and lymphedema treatment. Ginny enjoys living in Alaska and all it has to offer with frequent time spent kayaking, hiking, camping and kiteboarding.

WEBINAR #6 – Inside the NICU Parent Experience: Meeting Parents Where They Are

KEIRA SORRELLS, BSFCS - Keira Sorrells is the mother of triplets born at 25 weeks, 5 days gestation. Ms. Sorrells spent nine and a half months in the NICU with her girls and experienced every parent's greatest fear when one of her daughters died at 14 months old. In 2008, these traumas led Ms. Sorrells to launch the Zoe Rose Memorial Foundation, a non-profit that supports NICU families. She soon became aware that the voice of the NICU parent was underrepresented in Maternal and Infant Health community. In response, Ms. Sorrells helped launch and now serves as President of the Premie Parent Alliance (PPA). PPA a network of over 30 NICU parent support organizations that is dedicated to representing the needs and best interests of NICU families in all facets of healthcare policy, care guidelines, advocacy, education, and family support. Ms. Sorrells strongly believes that no single organization or provider can serve all the needs of all NICU families, only through collaboration can the true voice of the NICU parent be represented appropriately.

WEBINAR #7 – Nurturing Care of Mother-Infant Dyads Impacted by Opioid Use

LISA CLEVELAND, PHD, RN, CPNP, IBCLC, NTMNC - Dr. Lisa Cleveland is a Board Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. Her career is centered on advocacy for underserved families. She has a clinical practice at a non-profit, alternative high school and daycare for more than 300 at-risk children. Further, her research is focused on mother-infant dyads affected by neonatal abstinence (withdrawal) syndrome (NAS). U.S. rates of NAS have increased fivefold since 2000. Dr. Cleveland is currently leading her interprofessional team in conducting research to determine the impact of kangaroo mother care (KMC), a method of skin-to-skin, mother-infant holding, on stress reactivity and attachment in these dyads. The findings of this research show that KMC can reduce the severity of NAS symptoms and foster a strong maternal-infant attachment. In addition, Dr. Cleveland is the Principal Investigator for a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute funded project to develop a Bexar County NAS Collaborative (BCNC). Bexar County, Texas, which includes the San Antonio area, has been disproportionately affected by NAS, accounting for one third of cases reported annually in the state. Therefore, the purpose of the BCNC, is to engage patient/family partners, community stakeholders, clinicians, and researchers in the identification of research priorities specific to NAS.

WEBINAR #8 – Environment of Care Literature Review

SHANNON USHER, MSOT, OTR/L, CNT, NTMTC - Shannon received her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree from Washington University School of Medicine. She has been working in the NICU since she started her professional career and currently works in a large Level III NICU in Colorado Springs, CO. She also participates in the Infant Developmental Assessment Clinic in Colorado Springs. Shannon has presented many times on the local and national level both in live and pre-recorded formats. She is a clinical consultant and CE Administrator with Creative Therapy Consultants. Shannon has completed developmental assessments with a Nationwide National Institute of Health research study and she also volunteers with the Junior League of Colorado Springs.