



Neonatal Nursing Association Of Southern Africa

From the Editor

Well here we are already in the 5<sup>th</sup> month of 2011. We have had a very exciting time since our last edition.

Firstly I have to apologise for the lateness of this addition. By turning 63 years old in December last year I found myself between jobs, so was off line for a couple of months. However we are now back on track and we will do our best to keep you updated with the association's activities news and progress.

Although we may have been quiet this does not mean to say that we have not been active. In fact after the success of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference in October 2010 we have gone from strength to strength. We now have two sister branches. One in Johannesburg and the other in Bloemfontein who are already setting the pace in their areas. (Names and contact details under Contact Us on this page.) Not only are they up and running, but Johannesburg is hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference at the St Georges Hotel on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October this year (see poster on back page). The flyer that has been sent out has all the details and contact numbers. Check the website, for early registration benefits, topics and guest speakers.

The website also has details of how and when to submit abstracts and nominations for the Neonatal Nurse of the Year which is sponsored by Care Fusion.

Another exciting happening is that we are now affiliated with the International Stillbirth Association and are providing regular articles to the Professional Nursing Journal, where you can

also find registration forms to join NNASA. Thanks to the hard work of the committee and the Conference Company, for the fourth year in a row we have managed to keep the annual NNASA membership fee to R150.00, which is now due for those who wish to renew their registration. Our year runs from March to February.

We also now have smart NNASA "T" and Golf shirts for sale. These can be bought from your area representative.

One of our main focus areas for this year is to look for ways to improve our communication with our members. We are now sending out regular SMS's.

We have also appointed a dedicated member of the committee to head up this area. You should be hearing from her real soon.

We want to hear from you with all your exciting unit projects, your successes both professionally and personally, and remember to include a photograph. We would love to publish your articles of interest or details of coming events in your area.

So let's hear from you all. You can find the contact details for your area representative alongside under "Contact Us"

The only thing left for me to say is, see you in Johannesburg in October presenting our theme "Think globally, care locally"!

Ann Leslie  
Editor

President's Ponderings



*Rejoice, Rejoice, Christ is in you  
The hope of Glory in our hearts  
He lives, He lives His breath is in us  
Arise a mighty army we arise!*

This chorus sums up so well for me my feelings post the 7<sup>th</sup> International Neonatal Nurses Conference (7<sup>th</sup> ICNN) in Durban in October 2010.....

The hope of glory in our hearts...

There is a saying that goes "If you dream it you can become it!" We started with a group of 7 nurses with a hope and dream of an Association that could be the voice of neonatal nurses, unifying and supporting those who were

marginalised. We dreamed of exposing local nurses to the experience of an International Nurses Conference and to positively impact the care given to newborn babies around the world.

We have now become a group representing 230 nurses nationally and have 2 branches in the Free State and Gauteng.

Rejoice...! We succeeded against the odds!

Despite an international recession and the fact that NNASA wasn't even a year old when we were awarded the bid for the 7<sup>th</sup> ICNN - we were able to attract almost 500 delegates from 19 different countries (366 from SA) and successfully met both local and COINN financial commitments.

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If you would like to become an active participant please talk to one of us.

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Presidents Ponderings -continued from page 1

Christ is in you...

The only way we succeeded was through passion, willpower, determination and the power of the Risen Lord. His Breath is in us... Inspiring, directing and strengthening us for the work ahead.

Arise a mighty army...

There is strength in numbers! NNASA is in the process of establishing affiliations with other national associations. I have just returned from a fruitful meeting with DENOSA. We raised issues challenging neonatal nurses (including the lack of training!!) and look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship in the future. As we unite and grow we will be empowered to speak loudly at national forums about issues affecting neonatal nurses and nursing. We can have a voice in deciding policy and guidelines about neonatal care. By teaching and learning, improving our skills, sharing knowledge and resources, participating in research and remaining in the neonatal field at the bedside we truly can impact on the standard of neonatal care and save some of the over 21,300 babies that die in their first month of life annually in our country.

Thank you to all those who have joined our army and united with us in our dream to improve neonatal care in Southern Africa.

The National Board has been re-looking at our constitution and the structure of the Association as we move forward in the New Year. We have decided to launch 3 Special Interest Groups to support and advise the National Board namely Education and Training, Academic and Communications

Education and Training-

- To liaise with national academic institutions, the Department of Health and the SA Nursing Council in order to ensure the development of national standardised neonatal nurse training
- Develop an in-service training plan
- To develop evidence based guidelines

Academic-

- To participate in and review neonatal research findings
- Liaise with education committee
- Assist with the development of guidelines
- Develop position statements

Communications and membership-

- Liaise with secretariat and marketing company
- Maintain current website on a weekly basis
- Produce quarterly newsletter and monthly SMS alerts
- Regularly communicate/blog with Healthy Newborn Network
- Promote communication amongst members
- Organise membership drives
- Arrange launches for potential new branches
- Produce marketing material

Please put your thinking caps on. If you know of people who might be suitable to sit on these committees please fill in a nomination form. We really need these groups to be functional and strong as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

I have just returned from celebrating the International Day of the Midwife in Durban. Midwives from KwaZulu-Natal walked to the City Hall and in the presence of the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Dhlomo pledged their commitment to reducing maternal and neonatal deaths in South Africa. NNASA was there to show our support for our midwife colleagues and to include our voice in their call for unity and commitment to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 4 and 5. NNASA wishes SOMSA success in their hosting of the upcoming International Midwifery Congress from the 19-23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011. See you there!!

God bless

Ruth Davidge  
President



Treasurer's report

I am pleased to report that we have had a very successful year March 2010/February 2011.

Not only have we succeeded in hosting the International conference and met all our huge financial commitments, but we now also have a small residual fund to help the new branches develop and to give bridging finance to host the 4<sup>th</sup> conference to be held in October this year.

Once we have received the ITb forms from the bank we can then submit our books for their annual audit.

Can I also call on you all to renew your membership. Our new year started in March.

You can pay your subscriptions and conference registration directly into the Standard Bank account or by credit card to our Nedbank pay

gate facility. All details and necessary numbers are on your forms. If you have any problems do not hesitate to contact us.

It is extremely important that you quote YOUR name or reference number on your deposit slip so that we can allocate it to your account. For example please do not just put "NNASA subs" as a reference this makes it very difficult to know who to allocate the funds too.

Your subscription ensures that we are visible, and gives us a voice for all neonatal nurses who strive to make a difference.

Ann Leslie  
Treasurer



Renew you membership of the Neonatal Nurses Association of South Africa

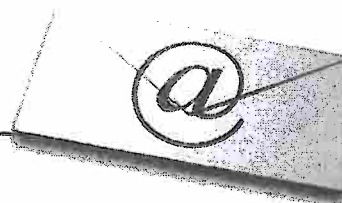
Your subscription ensures that we are visible, and gives us a voice for all neonatal nurses who strive to make a difference.





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## Letters to the Editor..



Tell us your news, give us your views,  
share your successes and your disappointments.  
What's happening in your unit or in your area?



Letters can be posted to:  
Sr A Leslie, Life Hillcrest Accident & Emergency Unit,  
C/o Life Westville Hospital, PO Box 467, Westville 3630  
or emailed to: [anne.leslie@lifehealthcare.co.za](mailto:anne.leslie@lifehealthcare.co.za)

### Feedback from our conference.

Dear Sithembile,

You all are probably heavily involved with your next conference already! I appreciate the follow up communication. My mind frequently wanders to the time I spent in South Africa.

As both a delegate and presenter, I want to let you and the rest of the conference planning committee know how grateful I am for all the efforts put forward to creating a life-changing experience for me. The conference was a cultural as well as academic experience for me. The speakers were powerful, the social events were fun, the food was excellent, the hotel was first rate, and the hospital tours were an eye-opener!

I have only heard from one delegate wanting information about our presentation on Cue-Based Feeding for Premies. There were many nurses who were interested in the slide show and we left the CDs with the PowerPoint presentations with Ruth Davidge and the NNASA. I am hopeful that the association will have a means of disseminating the information.

We have more resources than what we brought and had time to present, so please give my email address to anyone who is interested. If people do not hear back, that might mean that my hospital firewall is not letting the email through. My home email address is: [barberataft@charter.net](mailto:barberataft@charter.net) ( I do spell my first name Barbera.)

Sincerely,

**Barbera Herzog Taft (NNP and NICU CNS)**

Good day, Sithembile.

I am writing to convey my heartfelt thanks & gratitude to you and your great team for the excellent job done in organising a World Conference.

Thank you for the manner you kept the delegates posted with information prior to this great event.

Keep up the good work. Make the world a better place. With the Almighty God in our midst our world will be healed. I would

May you have a happy forever.

Kind Regards.

**Johnny N. Masote (Esq.) Nestle CRR Dept**

Hi all, greetings, Sawubona.

It is a pleasure to link up with you again. The trip to RSA was very successful.

The award giving ceremony was a sight. Much singing, speeches and entertainment with an energetic Zulu war dance. Christine walked up and following her introduction received her much envied award. There were more than 500 delegates. She continued to be congratulated all through the conference.

We attended different parallel sessions in the hope to cover as much as was possible. It felt a bit strange to be a physician among nurses until later I found 3 neonatologists - one born in the remotest part of Uganda, not to mention that one of the presentations was on nurse training in Uganda by two Irish nurses. These were very eager to work with us back home. It was very informative discussing challenges and successes practicing in a rural setting. I learnt about peripherally inserted central catheters and even carried some home plus a manual. Later we had an opportunity to visit two neonatal units, an opportunity that we had earlier missed. It was words and pictures becoming real. Real intensive care units. Thought about changing the name of our unit to omit 'intensive'. Well, we still make a positive difference in lives.

The problem of HIV was present too. It was interesting seeing a breast milk bank and if feasible was a life saving practice for HIV exposed infants.

Got many new friends and contacts and saw demonstrations of the state of the art equipment.

The trip has been an eye opener appreciating the great potential there is in nurses in neonatal care. On-line courses are available. A new programme 'Helping Babies Breathe' particularly looked interesting. There will be a training in Washington D.C. US in June 2011. <<http://www.chadkids.org/apnforum>>. The next conference will be in Ireland in three years' time.

We finally made our way back home through yet another storm. Still telling stories and trying to work in some of what we learnt.

Thank you all for your participation in making this trip possible, your reward will be the lives of the babies that benefit.

God Bless you all.

**James Nyonyintono (Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda)**

(letter shortened)

Ann,

Just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed the neonatal congress and congratulations on a job well done. I would like to become actively involved in the association in the future.

**Juggie Munsamy (Netcare Alberlito Hospital)**