



Perinatal Gazette



Newsletter of the Regional Perinatal Center

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center

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A Presentation of the Hudson Valley Shaken Baby Initiative Held at MFCH

Our thanks go to Dr. Jennifer Canter for presenting WMC's Shaken Baby Program on Wednesday, June 8, 2005. The lecture was well attended by nurses, residents, fellows and neonatologists as well as other hospital staff from the pediatric and NICU departments.

Dr. Canter is a forensic pediatrician and medical director of the Children's Advocacy Center. Dr. Canter is co-principal investigator for the Hudson Valley Shaken Baby Initiative along with Dr. Robin Altman. This program provides education to parents of newborns about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) as well as strategies for risk reduction. WMC is one of 22 in a network of hospitals that provides this program to new parents. This educational program is mandatory to mothers and fathers prior to discharge after birth.

Dr. Canter pointed out the characteristics that all infants have that may make them susceptible to shaken baby syndrome. Dr. Canter

(cont. next column)

also reviewed some of the external characteristics that health care professionals should observe which may make an infant suspect for non-accidental head injury. Some of these characteristics are subdural hematomas, rib fractures, especially posteriorly, retinal hemorrhages as well as other bruising and unusual markings on the body, face or head. Unfortunately, not all cases present with external signs and instead have more diffuse injuries, so caregivers must also be vigilant in assessing psychosocial matters, since the child can be asymptomatic. There is a 15-27% mortality rate among victims. Many victims are still being missed especially in young, white, intact families. The most common time for SBS abuse to occur in an infant's life is around four months of age.

A similar regional program in Buffalo, under the leadership of neurosurgeon Dr. Mark Dias, demonstrated a fifty percent decrease in the incidence of Shaken Baby Syndrome. Part of the program focuses on teaching parents how to manage stress and anger. The video and written material that is provided through the program has proven to be helpful with the 22 hospitals participating in the Hudson Valley regional network.

For more information on the program and or SBS please contact **Mary Gionta at 914-493-7235.**

SAVE THE DATE: OCT. 19, '05

4th Annual Hudson Valley Regional Perinatal Forum Conference at

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center

Prematurity and Low Birth Weight in the Hudson Valley: Developing a Regional Action Plan to Eliminate Disparities

* Keynote speaker: Joycelyn Elders, M.D., former U.S. Surgeon General

* Invited speaker: Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

For more information, call (914) 493-6435 or email Heather_Brumberg@nymc.edu or hunter-grant@wcmc.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2	LHVPN Hosts Educational Networking Meeting on Baby Safe Haven Programs
2	"Celebration of Life" planned for Sept. 14, 2005 – NICU to host Annual "Graduate" Reunion Party
3	MFCH at WHUD Kid's Fair
4	Happenings & Important Dates

Annual Graduate Reunion Party Planned for September 14, 2005

On Wednesday, September 14, 2005, from 3:00-5:00 p.m., at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, The Regional Neonatal Center will host a "celebration of life" for the babies and their families who required intensive care services. The Regional Neonatal Center will celebrate 23 years of providing care to families in the Hudson Valley Region. More than 14,000 babies have graduated from Westchester Medical Center's neonatal intensive care unit, which treats many of the sickest newborns in New York State.

The Regional Neonatal Center hosts an annual Graduate Reunion Party each fall. The Graduate Reunion provides a unique opportunity for parents to "show off" their baby. Families can talk with the doctors, nurses, social workers and therapists who helped to nurture these babies. For the medical staff, it is so rewarding to see these miracle babies grow into healthy children. Many of these babies had spent weeks and months in the hospital and to see them smiling, playing with others and laughing is a miracle. We are looking forward to staff and families joining us to mark this milestone for The Regional Neonatal Center.

Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network (LHVPN) Presents Education Meetings on "Safe Haven" Act

On April 19, 2005, the LHVPN held its quarterly Education and Networking Meeting in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (Dutchess County). More than 60 participants were on hand to partake in the educational topic "The Abandoned Infant Protection Act – Safe Haven," an act relative to the safe placement of newborn infants. Tim Jaccard, President and CEO of AMT Children of Hope Foundation was the presenter. The following are *excerpts* from AMT Children of Hope's Information Manual: "There is a Secret Safe Place for Newborns: Baby Safe Haven Program."

What is the Safe Haven Act?

The Safe Haven Act allows a parent or guardian to legally abandon newborn infants 5 days old or younger at a hospital, police station, or fire station or with any responsible person without facing criminal prosecution.

When is the Safe Haven Act applicable?

When a parent or guardian voluntarily leaves a newborn infant 5 days or younger with an appropriate person, a hospital, police department, fire station and there are no signs of abuse or neglect of the infant.

- more -

Clare Nugent Joins State Perinatal Database Team

My name is Clare Nugent, BSN. Many of you at WMC recognize me as a staff nurse in the neonatal unit. I was hired as a NICU nurse back in the days of a nursing abundance. I am not ashamed to admit that I groveled for the position and challenge to care for the babies in the NICU. I have never regretted it for a moment.

I was a member of the group active in implementing the pain scale that we are currently using in the unit. Working with Kathy Rogan, Heather Brumberg, Heather Baribaldt, Sue Malfa, and Sue Baldwin has enabled us to better address and ease the pain from which many of our babies suffer.

I have currently joined the SPDS Team (State Perinatal Database) as a data entry nurse and will be working with Donna Dozor, Sue Marchwinski and Dr. Brumberg. I will still maintain my staff nurse duties part time in addition to this new position. I am delighted to work in another area of neonatal nursing providing accurate data accountability for babies requiring neonatal intensive care.

Our office is located in the main hospital Lang wing at 220 Macy East. Our number is 914 – 493 – 8590. You can also contact me via email at Nugentc@wmc.com.

Safe Haven, *continued*

What should I do if an infant is left at my Safe Haven?

If the Safe Haven is not an Acute Care Hospital with an Emergency Department, it is recommended that your local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) be requested to respond to assess the newborn's condition onsite and to transport the infant to the closest hospital with the appropriate facilities.

* If the Safe Haven site is an Acute Care Hospital with an Emergency Department, any involved medical professionals should ensure that the infant's needs are met and any subsequent transitions of care are coordinated. If one or more of the parents is available:

* Thank them for bringing the infant to a safe place. Ask if they would be willing to provide any information that would assist in planning for the future care of the child. Encourage the parent to provide the information **but the parent shall not be required to provide such information.**

For more information or to develop Baby Safe policies and procedures for your organization, contact the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network:

Cheryl Hunter-Grant, Executive Director
Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network
914-493-6435
hunter-grantc@wmc.com.

María Fareri Children’s Hospital along with Westchester Medical Center helped sponsor the 10th Annual WHUD “Kids Fair” at the Westchester County Civic Center on April 23, 2005 in White Plains, N.Y. Dr. Lance Parton organized efforts on behalf of MFCH to showcase what makes us unique in the region. An estimated 10,000 visitors were on hand to stop by and learn more about us.

Lance Parton, Cheryl Hunter-Grant, Amitoz Manhas, Marianne Augustine



Rosanna Rodrigues, Edmund La Gamma, Annamma John, Lance Parton



Some young health care professionals in training!

Upcoming Events

Third Annual Pediatric Integrative Medicine Conference (PIMC)

Oct. 21-23, 2005

A 3-day conference held at The New York Academy of Medicine, New York, NY; featuring Lawrence Rosen, MD, NYMC faculty, Chair, 2005 PIMC, who will be delivering the Welcoming Address, "The State of Pediatric Integrative Medicine 2005". To make your reservations, please call 800 – 894 – 6380. Or email Victoria Gonzales at Victoria.gonzales@innerdoorway.com
Deadline: 9/1/05

La Leche League of New York-East announces the 2005 area Conference, "Mother to Mother: Supporting Each Other, Changing the World."

Celebrate the 21st Parenting and Breastfeeding Conference to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains, NY, October 28 – 30. More info can be obtained at 914 – 237 – 1595.

Noteworthy...

These internet sites all have links to several other sites that may be of interest. The content of each website is the responsibility of the webmaster.

<http://kingproductions.com>: / Tommy's CyberNursery Preemie Web – FrontDoor. Links to preemie info, other preemie websites, discussion groups, medical information.

<http://www.prematurity.org/index.html> Premature Baby - Premature Child Preemie Parent Support for Preemie Special Needs

<http://www.modimes.org> March of Dimes organization whose goal is to reach the day when all babies are born healthy.

<http://www.nymc.edu/neonatology/> New York Medical College, Division of Neonatology webpage.

<http://mariafarerichildrenshospital.wcmc.com/> Maria Fareri Children's Hospital Homepage.

State Perinatal Database Team & Perinatal Gazette Editorial Board

Edmund LaGamma, M.D., Director Newborn Medicine
(914) 493-8558 (edmund_lagamma@nymc.edu)

Chaur-Dong (C.D.) Hsu, M.D., M.P.H. Director OB/GYN
(914) 593-8987 (mailto:chaur-dong_hsu@nymc.edu)

Heather Brumberg, M.D. M.P.H.,
(914) 493-8491 (mailto:heather_brumberg@nymc.edu)

Susan Marchwinski, R.N., C., M.S., SPDS Coordinator
(914) 493-8590 (marchwinskisa@wcmc.com)

Donna Dozor, R.N., M.S. Neonatal Data Collection
(914) 493-8309 (dozord@wcmc.com)

Clare Nugent, R.N., Neonatal Data Collection
(914) 493-8346 (nugentc@wcmc.com)

We are interested in providing you with a newsletter that is relevant and of interest to you. Please contact us with perinatal topics you would like to see addressed. For a copy of our newsletter or to be placed on our mailing list contact us by phone or e-mail. Please see below the NYMC neonatal web site address to locate other issues of The Perinatal Gazette:

<http://www.nymc.edu/neonatology>

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center

1 Woods Road

Valhalla, New York 10595

Phone: 914-493-8590

Fax: 914-493-1493

E-mail: dozord@wcmc.com

marchwinskisa@wcmc.com

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