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Letter from the Nursing Task Force Chair

Dear Nursing Colleagues,

On behalf of the Newborn Brain Society, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Diane Wilson for her exceptional hard work, leadership, and dedication to the inclusion and advancement of nurses within the Society. Diane's commitment has helped elevate the voice of nursing and highlight the critical role nurses play in neurocritical care. Her efforts have strengthened collaboration, expanded opportunities, and laid a strong foundation for continued growth.

I am also pleased to take over as the new Chair of the Nursing Task Force. Over the past year, I have worked closely with Diane to advance the mission and goals of the Nursing Task Force. I would like to bring passion, experience, and a strong commitment to supporting and advancing the nursing profession within the Newborn Brain Society. I look forward to continuing this important work and engaging with nursing members across the community.

To better understand the needs of our nursing membership and ensure we are providing meaningful support, we invite all nursing members to complete a brief survey. Your feedback will help guide the Nursing Task Force's priorities and initiatives moving forward.

Thank you for your continued dedication to improving neurocritical care and supporting infants and families. We look forward to working together to further strengthen the nursing community within the Newborn Brain Society.

Warm regards,

Natalie Hunt PhD, CRNP, NNP-BC, C-NNIC, NTMNC
University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center
Chair, Nursing Task Force
Newborn Brain Society



PAS
2026

Highlights from April

BOSTON,
MA




The Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting convened thousands of pediatric clinicians, researchers, and educators from around the world in Boston from April 24–27, 2026. As one of the leading gatherings in academic pediatrics, this year’s meeting featured a robust, multi-specialty program highlighting the latest advances in child health research, clinical care, and medical education. Participants across all career stages engaged with internationally recognized experts, explored emerging scientific developments, and contributed to discussions spanning a wide range of pediatric disciplines.

Meet & Greet Breakfast Meeting

As an affiliate partner, Newborn Brain Society (NBS) was actively represented at this year’s PAS Meeting, with members contributing to a range of sessions and presentations across the program. The NBS Meet & Greet Breakfast once again saw strong attendance, bringing the community together for meaningful connection and exchange. The program included a State of the Society update, followed by the presentation of the NBS Honorary Fellow Award to Dr. Steven Miller.





2026 Honorary Fellow Steven Miller, MDCM, FRCPC, FRSC, FCAHS

The Newborn Brain Society was delighted to honor Steven Miller with the NBS Honorary Fellow Award for his exceptional contributions to neonatal neurology and neurocritical care, joining a distinguished legacy of Honorary Fellows whose work has advanced the field.

HIE

*Highlights
from April*

**HOLD-A-
THON**

Holding Onto Hope: The HIE Hold-A-Thon in Action



This month, NICUs around the world are participating in the inaugural HIE Hold-A-Thon, a collaborative initiative led by the Newborn Brain Society and Hope for HIE. Aligned with HIE Awareness Month, this effort focuses on advancing safe, supported parental holding during therapeutic hypothermia (TH) as a standard component of family-centered care.

Why This Matters

Therapeutic hypothermia is life-saving for newborns with hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE), but often limits early parent-infant contact. Despite growing evidence that holding during TH is safe and beneficial, only 38% of NICUs currently offer this practice. The Hold-A-Thon challenges this gap—shifting the question from ‘Is this safe?’ to ‘Why aren’t we doing this more?’

From Evidence to Practice

Research to date demonstrates that, when guided by structured protocols, parental holding during TH maintains physiologic stability, reduces parental stress, and supports bonding and long-term developmental outcomes. The Hold-A-Thon translates this evidence into action through a structured, unit-wide approach emphasizing institutional ownership, staff engagement, standardized processes, and cultural change.

What’s Happening Now

Throughout April, participating NICUs are implementing locally adapted protocols supported by a comprehensive toolkit, including transfer guidelines, safety checklists, staff education materials, and family resources. Site champions are leading multidisciplinary teams to integrate these practices into routine care.

Holding Onto Hope: The HIE Hold-A-Thon in Action (continued)

Early feedback highlights increased clinician confidence, strong team engagement, and meaningful emotional impact for families—many experiencing their first opportunity to hold their baby during TH.

Looking Ahead

The Hold-A-Thon represents more than a single-month initiative. It marks the beginning of a broader effort to embed trauma-informed, family-centered practices into neonatal brain care. Insights from this initiative will inform future guidelines, research, and implementation strategies.

At its core, this work reinforces a fundamental shift in neonatal care: connection is not separate from treatment—it is part of the therapy.

Learn More:

newbornbrainsociety.org/hie-hold-a-thon

CHD Skin-to-Skin-a-Thon (August 1–31)

Building on the momentum of the HIE Hold-A-Thon, the second annual CHD Skin-to-Skin-a-Thon is a global initiative led by the Cardiac Newborn Neuroprotective Network (CN3) and partners within the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcome Collaborative (CNOC). Running throughout August, the campaign encourages children's hospitals worldwide to expand and normalize safe skin-to-skin care for infants with congenital heart disease (CHD).

Evidence continues to show that skin-to-skin contact is safe in cardiac settings and supports physiologic stability, neurodevelopment, and parent–infant bonding during prolonged hospitalizations. This initiative aims to grow participation across cardiac and neonatal units and further embed neuroprotective, family-centered care practices in everyday clinical workflows.

Learn more: chdskintoskin.com

Call for Leadership and Committee Member Nominations: **Deadline May 15**

If you are a member looking to make a bigger impact within the Society, we invite you to make an impact by serving in a leadership role or as a committee member in one of our committees. Members with diverse perspectives, experience, and a commitment to advancing newborn brain care are encouraged to apply. New terms will begin **October 1, 2026** and conclude **September 30, 2029**.

Deadline to submit your nomination is **May 15, 2026**.

Leadership Opportunities

- Vice President and Board of Directors
Member
- Secretary and Board of Directors
Member
- Chair of Membership Committee and
Board of Directors Member
- Steering Committee Member

Committee Opportunities

- Communications & Networking
Committee General Member
- Education Committee General Member
- Finance Committee General Member
- Guidelines and Publications Committee
General Member
- Membership Committee General
Member
- QI & Research Committee General
Member

For a full list of position and committee descriptions, click [HERE](#).

Candidates may apply for more than one role; however, a separate application is required for each position.

To nominate an NBS member, please email Helen Vardanyan at h.vardanyan@newbornbrainsociety.org

[Submit Your Nomination](#)

Advancement Opportunities

Neonatal Neurocritical Care Fellowship Program Application

Applications for the Neonatal Neurocritical Care (NNCC) Fellowship Program will open on **May 15, 2026** for fellowship positions beginning **July 1, 2027**. More information [here](#).

Now entering its second cycle, the NNCC Fellowship has become an established training pathway in neonatal neurocritical care, providing structured, competency-based education for physicians committed to advancing the care of critically ill neonates with neurological conditions.

The program is designed for neonatologists, pediatric neurologists, and developmental pediatricians, and ensures standardized training across participating institutions in alignment with defined subspecialty competencies.

Fellowship Training Overview

The one-year clinical fellowship includes:

- Rotations across core clinical and subspecialty services
- Advanced training in neonatal neurocritical care, including:
 - Critical care monitoring, Electrophysiology, Genetics, Neuroradiology, Neurodevelopmental follow-up, Fetal neurology
- A structured, year-long standardized educational curriculum

Upon completion of the fellowship, trainees are eligible to apply for the UCNS Neonatal Neurocritical Care Certification Examination, supporting a unified standard of competency and subspecialty recognition.

The NNCC Fellowship continues to expand through participation from a growing network of institutions committed to advancing standardized training and excellence in neonatal neurocritical care. Below are institutions accepting applications this cycle.

- Children's National Hospital
- Children's Hospital of Orange County
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Cincinnati Children's Medical Center
- Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- University of Texas Southwestern
- University of Washington/Seattle Children's Hospital
- Washington University in St. Louis



Interested in Learning More?

Join a live informational webinar on May 19th, *Applying to the Neonatal Neurocritical Care (NNCC) Fellowship Program in the United States: What You Need to Know*. Program Directors from participating institutions will present their programs and engage in a live Q&A session.

Impact Award (Inaugural Cycle)

The NBS Impact Award, launched in 2026, is designed to support clinicians and researchers based in low-income, lower-middle-income, or upper-middle-income economy countries (LMICs) who are working to advance newborn brain health and neurodevelopment.

This award supports clinically oriented, research, or implementation projects that demonstrate the potential for high-impact improvement in neonatal and infant brain care at a community or population level. Projects should be feasible within the local context and clearly aligned with improving outcomes for newborns and children. Each award provides \$10,000 in direct support (no indirect costs permitted).

Awardees will be paired with a designated NBS mentor, who will provide structured guidance throughout the project period to support progress and implementation.

Learn more, visit: <https://newbornbrainsociety.org/impact-award/>

Early Career Award

The NBS Early Career Award, established in 2022, supports early-career investigators conducting research focused on the fetal and neonatal brain. Each award provides \$10,000 in direct support. .

This award is intended for clinicians and researchers in the early stages of their careers, including clinical trainees, postdoctoral fellows, or junior faculty within five years of completing their most recent training. Eligible applicants may hold an MD, PhD, MD/PhD, RN, NNP, PT/OT, MPH, or other allied health professional degree or credential.

Projects may span basic science, translational, clinical, or quality improvement research, provided they advance understanding, care, or outcomes related to the fetal or neonatal brain.

Learn more, visit: newbornbrainsociety.org/early-career-award



- Application Period:**
May 15 - October 1, 2026
- LOI Deadline:**
August 1, 2026
- Award Announcement:**
December 15, 2026

A recent **NBS-TEC webinar**, *Applying to Awards and Grants in Your Early Academic Career*, features Early Career Award recipients Dr. Regina Triplett and Dr. Anouk Verschuur, who discuss their academic pathways and the role of awards and grants in supporting early research careers. View the webinar for insights into early academic development and funding pathways.

Continuing Education Opportunities

NBS Educational Live Webinars

Every Thursday | 12 PM ET

Supported by our Learning
and Education Partner

Medtronic

April 30

Research Session

From Evidence to
Everyday Care:
Implementing
Neurodevelopmental
Supportive Care in the
NICU - Welma Lubbe

[Register](#)

May 7

General Session

Fetal Neurology Series:
Prenatally Diagnosed
Absent Septum
Pellucidum and
Septo-Optic Dysplasia
- Charu Venkatesan

[Register](#)

May 21

General Session

Patient Centered
Research - Betsy Pilon,
Renee Shellhaas, and
Hannah Glass

[Register](#)

Live session attendees can claim free CME through USF Health.

NBS members have access to all webinars through their member portal.

Missed a webinar? Watch the latest one on our website – available with open access for one week.

Visit: www.newbornbrainsociety.org/educational-webinars.

Neonatal Neurology Around the World July 2026 - February 2027

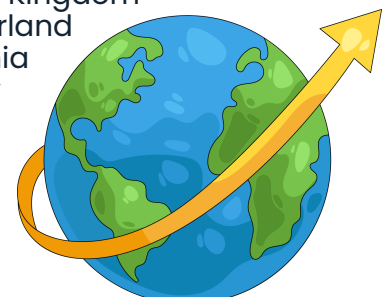
Tune in to the new webinar series highlighting national neonatal neurology practices, protocols, and clinical/research approaches aimed at strengthening international collaboration.



**View full calendar of all
webinars and RSVP.**

[newbornbrainsociety.org/
webinars-and-sessions](http://newbornbrainsociety.org/webinars-and-sessions)

July: The Netherlands
August: Australia
September: Spain
October: Austria
November: United Kingdom
December: Switzerland
January: Slovenia
February: Turkey



Volpe's View: Latest Insights



Does Therapeutic Hypothermia have a Role in Management of the Late Preterm Infant with Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy?

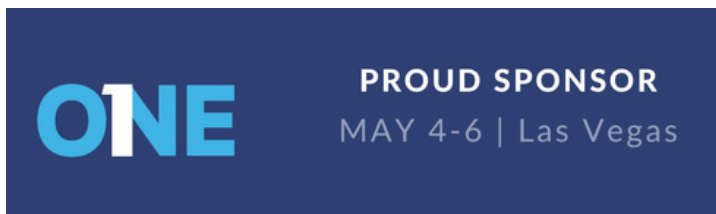


Read the latest commentary by Dr. Joseph Volpe, published in April 2026 and available exclusively through the Newborn Brain Society.

This twelfth installment continues his ongoing series of commentaries addressing key themes in neonatal neurology and neurocritical care.

Access the full commentaries here: newbornbrainsociety.org/commentaries-volpes-view/

Endorsed Events



ONEconf26.com

[View Program](#)

The Newborn Brain Society is headed to Las Vegas for the **ONE Conference 2026**, an NBS-endorsed meeting dedicated to advancing neonatal and NeuroNICU nursing practice.

NBS will be hosting a booth throughout the conference, with a strong focus on connecting with nurses and highlighting the essential role they play in advancing care for newborns with neurological conditions. Nurses are central to the mission of neonatal neurocritical care, and we are excited to meet with and learn from this community.

We are also proud to see our NBS members contributing to the scientific and educational program, reflecting the depth of nursing leadership and collaboration within the Society.

Attending? Visit the NBS booth to connect with us and learn more about our work and opportunities to get involved.

18th International Newborn Brain Conference



**Ibirapuera Park
São Paulo, Brazil**

March 11 - 13, 2027

More information coming soon! Visit www.newbornbrainconference.com

BECOME A MEMBER

**Join our global
community today!**

Membership Categories

- General Physician Member — \$175 annually
- General Non-Physician Member — \$130 annually
- General LMIC Member — \$25 annually
- Junior Member — Free
- Emeritus Member — \$130 annually

Our Multidisciplinary Network Includes

- Physicians
- Researchers and Scientists
- Neonatal and Pediatric Nurses
- Advanced Practice Providers
- Therapists
- Trainees and Students
- Families and Community Members

[LEARN MORE & JOIN](#)

Learn

Connect



Network

Member Benefits

- Access to grants to support the work of early-stage researchers
- Access to member-only online educational, QI and research resources
- Access to library of educational webinars led by experts in the field
- Discounted membership dues for LMIC members
- Discounts on select scientific conferences, courses, and workshops
- Free membership for Junior members in a training program

Support the Newborn Brain Society

AND SUPPORT THE MISSION TO ADVANCE NEONATAL NEUROCRITICAL CARE, ENSURING EVERY BABY HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL.



Newborn Brain Society, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation registered with the IRS under EIN 84-2910990.



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For the latest news, updates, and more.

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