

# THE NEWBORN BRAIN SOCIETY

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

## TAKE A PEEK!

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## INTERVIEW WITH STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER DR. PIERRE GRESSENS

The Steering Committee of the Newborn Brain Society plays the essential role of advising the society and helping it to maintain its mission, vision, and objectives. It consists of seven founding members of the society, one of whom is Dr. Pierre Gressens, an Inserm - Université de Paris research lab Director, Robert Debré Hospital Department of Child Neurology Consultant, Université de Paris Medical School Vice-dean for research, and Professor of Foetal and Neonatal Neurology at King's College of London.

Dr. Gressens received his education and training at the University of Louvain Medical School in Brussels, Belgium and went on to specialize in Neurology and Child Neurology. Since then, Dr. Gressens has taken on many roles ranging from senior research officer, to coordinator, to professor.

Dr. Gressens' research has focused on exploring "the basic and applied aspects of research in diseases of the developing brain, with a special focus on neuroinflammation in the perinatal brain." Throughout his research, Dr. Gressens has introduced various novel concepts aimed at understanding the pathophysiology of neurodevelopmental disorders. Currently, he is most interested in "improving therapeutic strategies to treat these brain dysfunctions." Of these strategies, Dr. Gressens describes the importance of personalized medicine.

Dr. Gressens says that in terms of mechanisms, one of his biggest achievements is "...validating the idea that microglia and neuroinflammation are very important for perinatal brain damage." He also mentions that when he moved from his residency in Belgium to Paris, he almost had to start over as there was no neuroscience lab in Robert Debre hospital. It took some time to gather the resources and people to build it from the ground up from two to 150 people over 25 years. When asked if he would go back and do anything differently, he said "probably not," and that even though the path to success was long and hard, he was grateful to be able to shape it to his liking and create something new to benefit many people in the future.

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Dr. Gressens has also worked to share his knowledge and skills with others through mentoring, including 60 research fellows. He says it's something he enjoys doing and that it benefits not only the mentee but the mentor who ends up expanding his/her network and has more opportunities to generate new ideas with new people. He advises students and others new to the field to take part in clinical or prenatal research and also warns against disregarding the social aspect of research. He says that if you find yourself dreading going into the lab in the morning because of the social environment, then the research will become much harder, and that you need to strike a balance between the two to have effective yet enjoyable research.

Dr. Gressens shared his knowledge and findings through over 340 invited conferences and seminars taking place all over the world which he says are important for creating a wide, diverse network including peers, students, and families. He emphasizes the importance of including families, saying, "We need the patients and families" to move the field forward. "They are really key in helping us decide the best strategies." He also mentions the importance of allowing parents to be actively involved in their child(ren)'s care.

Dr. Gressens has lived and worked in multiple countries including Belgium, France, the US, and India, and has given lectures all over the world. He says that there are differences even within a country in how different NICUs apply strategies which are emphasized between countries. This makes it that much more important to share information, practices, and ideas between countries. He also emphasizes the importance of trying to take into account the available resources and technologies in different countries which affect practicality.

As an expert in the field of the Newborn Brain, Dr. Gressens shares what he sees as one of the most important things the field has accomplished: showing that hypothermia is protective as that was the first neuroprotective treatment that was both doable and feasible. He says it also pushed members of the field to broaden their network and work with others they may not have considered before. He hopes that the field will move to using biomarkers to identify high-risk babies at birth which would help to stratify data, as right now it is very hard to demonstrate the effectiveness of a drug with such a mixed testing group. This will help us to focus on treating preterms that need treatment as opposed to all preterms.

As a founding member of the Newborn Brain Society, Dr. Gressens shares his hopes for the future of the NBS. He mentioned an ongoing goal of the society, which is to link together different parts of the world through practices, reviews, training programs, etc. He wants to create "a larger community where people don't feel like they're competing with each other but rather to change and share." He says that if the NBS is able to accomplish this, it will be a big success and that if we reach that goal, then the next step is to look into international clinical trials and grants, but that we first have to show that we are able to work together.


We are very fortunate to have Dr. Gressens on the NBS team to help us fulfill our goals through his fruitful experience, leadership skills, and innovative thinking.



**"[I want to create] a larger community where people don't feel like they're competing with each other but rather to change and share."**

**DR. PIERRE  
GRESSENS, NBS  
STEERING  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBER**

[Click here to read the full interview](#)



# BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

\$100.00	<b>General Membership</b>
<a href="#">JOIN</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL <input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMATICALLY REBILLS
	<p>A General Member is a health care provider or member of the community interested in Neonatal Neurology. General Members have the right to vote in Newborn Brain Society elections, to hold office, and to secure fair consideration for governance appointments in the society. They are also invited to join all educational activities and have access to online resources.</p>
\$25.00	<b>General Membership (LMIC)</b>
<a href="#">JOIN</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL <input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMATICALLY REBILLS
	<p>A General Member (LMIC) is a person residing and working in a country with "low-income economy," "lower-middle-income economy," or "upper-middle-income economy" as defined by the World Bank's most recent available data. For 2020, please see: <a href="https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519">https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519</a> and scroll down to the income designations. General members (LMIC) must provide an institutional email, ID, and current CV, and eligibility will be verified. Once verified, General Members (LMIC) will be changed to active members, and will have all of the same benefits as General Members (hold office, vote, pay dues, join educational activities, etc).</p>
Free	<b>Junior Membership</b>
<a href="#">JOIN</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL
	<p>A Junior Member is a person in a Training Program (e.g., medical or scientific training program). Junior Members are invited to join all educational activities and have access to online resources. They do not vote, hold office, or pay dues. In order to continue as members of the Newborn Brain Society, Junior Members will have their status changed automatically from Junior to General Membership one year after completing their training.</p>

[JOIN](#)

LOG INTO YOUR MEMBERS AREA TO VIEW THE APRIL - OCTOBER WEBINAR RECORDINGS

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Newborn Brain Society website. On the right, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, followed by a 'Member Portal' button and a 'Join' link. Below this is a main navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, EVENTS, MEMBERSHIP, NEWS, and SUPPORT. The NBS logo is visible on the left side of the page.

[LOG IN](#)



# NOVEMBER WEBINAR SCHEDULE

Join experts in the field of neonatal neurology as they speak on clinical and research guidelines, educate on new techniques, and answer your questions! Ask any speaker questions [HERE](#). Now earn continuing education credits as an NBS member!

## **For MEMBERS:**

Recurring calendar invite sent out - no need to pre-register

## **For NON-MEMBERS:**

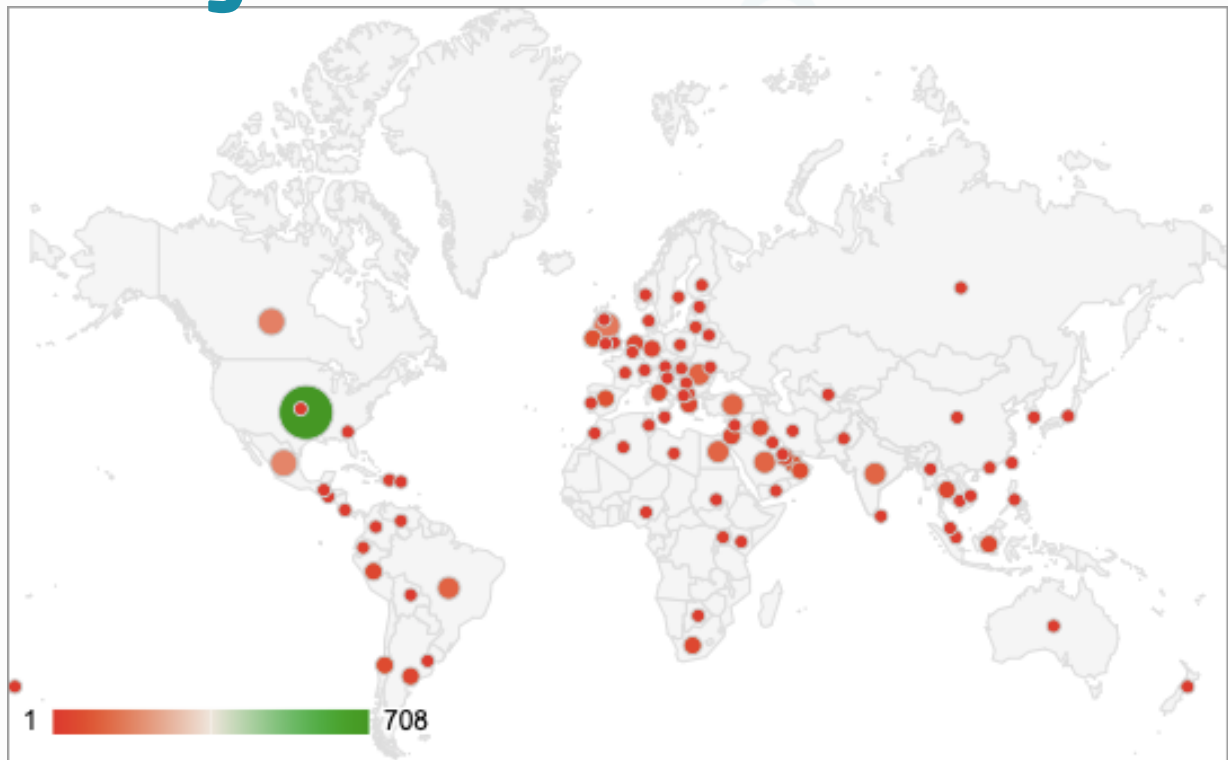
Click on each session below to pre-register

- 
- **November 5th: Harvey Sarnat, MS, MD, FRCPC**
    - *Normal Embryology and Morphogenesis of the Human Nervous System*
  - **November 12th: Panagiotis Kratimenos, MD, PhD**
    - *Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Inhibition Reverses Cellular and Transcriptomic Alterations Induced by Hypoxia in the Neonatal Piglet Brain*
  - **November 19th: Ray Redline, MD**
    - *Introduction to Placental Pathology and the Amsterdam Classification*

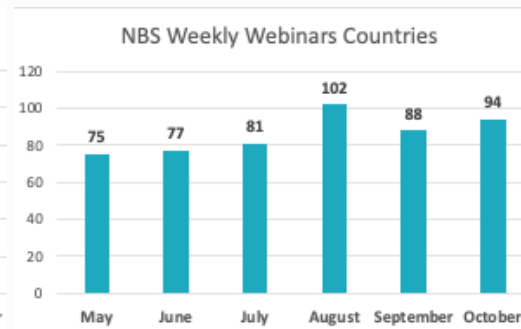
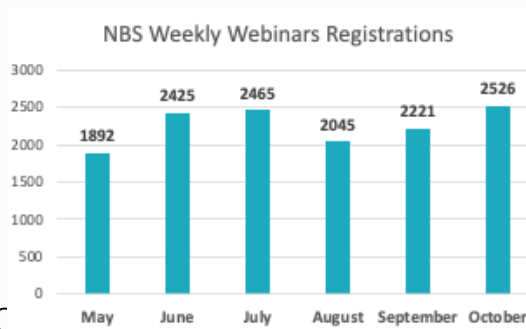
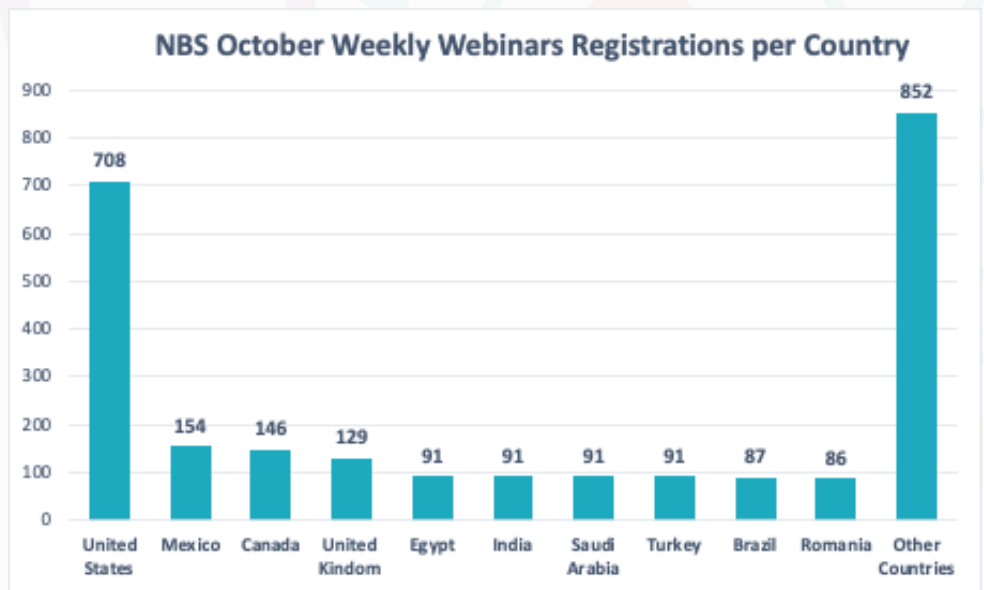
**Thursdays @**  
**12 PM EDT**



# Weekly Webinars



In October, the Newborn Brain Society Webinar Series had 2526 total registrations, 305 more than in September, (which is the most in NBS history!). The October webinars also reached 94 countries, 6 more than in September. Over the past couple of months we've seen a generally positive trend both in number of registrations and international reach, and we hope this growth and outreach will continue into future months.



# NEWBORN BRAIN SOCIETY NEWS

SEE WHAT YOU MISSED OVER ON OUR WEBSITE NEWS SECTION FROM LAST MONTH



**Steering Committee Interviews**

Learn more about the expert, founding members of the NBS in our monthly full-length interviews!

## Steering Committee Interview with Dr. Terrie Inder:

To continue our series of interviews with the steering committee members, we invite you to read our interview with the Dr. Terrie Inder where she discusses her personal experiences, her views on the field, and her advice for students. Click [here](#) to read.

## CME and Nursing CE Accreditation:

We are now offering CME, ANCC credits, and certificates of attendance for attending our live weekly webinar sessions. We are offering 1 AMA PRA Category 1 credit per webinar for our active NBS physician members, and 1 ANCC credit hour for our active NBS nursing members. You will need to enter the unique session code to claim your credits each week.



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## Entities United to Raise Society Awareness in Brazil on the Prevention and Treatment of Perinatal Asphyxia:

Brazil faced a significant reduction in the incidence of birth asphyxia between 1990-2015, a period corresponding to the millennium goals, due to advances in the coverage of prenatal care. However, many challenges remain to be overcome. It is estimated that approximately 20 thousand infants per year suffer from significant hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE) in the country.



The work of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program of Brazilian Society of Pediatrics, which established in 1994 and trained thousands of health professionals throughout the country, stands out. In order to further enhance the attention to the prevention and treatment of perinatal asphyxia, national entities have joined together to launch the Setembro Verde Esperança - National Awareness Campaign on Birth Asphyxia - to endorse the importance awareness of risks, prevention and treatment of perinatal asphyxia and HIE. The movement was initiated by the Protecting Brains Saving Futures Institute, a non-profit organization led by a group of healthcare professionals concerned with the high number of babies at risk of living with neurological impairment due to brain injury in the neonatal period. The Newborn Brain Society endorses Setembro Verde Esperança. [Read more on our website here.](#)

## CONNECT WITH US!



NEW EMAIL! Please send in news items for us to review and possibly include in upcoming newsletters! [news@newbornbrainsociety.org](mailto:news@newbornbrainsociety.org)