



Newborn Brain Society

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 2024 | Volume 15

Event Information

February 28th – March 2nd
Cork, Ireland
In-person and online

We are excited to welcome you to Cork, Ireland for our 15th International Newborn Brain Conference — an engaging event featuring cutting-edge sessions, discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities in the field of newborn brain research. Although in-person registration is closed, you can still join us online for this dynamic experience.

View the full four-day program below and register today!

[Register](#)

[View Program](#)

15th INBBC 2024



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2023

ANNUAL
REPORT

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

EARLY CAREER AWARD RECIPIENTS



Paolo Montaldo, MD, PhD

- Neonatal Neurology Post-doctoral Fellow
- Centre for Perinatal Neuroscience
- Imperial College London, United Kingdom
- Department of Women's and Children's Health and General and Specialized Surgery University of Campania "L. Vanvitelli", Naples, Italy.

Project: Real-time continuous glucose monitoring in infants with hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy: a pilot randomized controlled trial



Anouk Verschuur, MD

- Department of Radiology and Neonatology, Isala Hospital Zwolle, The Netherlands
- Department of Pediatrics, Section of Neonatology, University of Calgary, Canada
- Image Sciences Institute, University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands

Project: Diffusion magnetic resonance imaging and tractography as indicator for brain maturation in moderate-late preterm infants



Peter Ubuane, MBChB, FWACPaed

- Consultant Pediatrician
- Institute of Maternal & Child Health/Department of Paediatrics
- Lagos State University Teaching Hospital
- Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

Project: Improving survival among perinatally-asphyxiated referred to a tertiary Neonatal Unit in Lagos, Nigeria, using a quality improvement care practice bundle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volpe's View

The Newborn Brain Society is thrilled to announce a new and exciting opportunity for 2024 to learn from the master of neonatal neurology – Joseph Volpe. Dr. Volpe will reflect in a series of commentaries on recent topics of high relevance to the field of neonatal neurology. The commentaries will be published exclusively for the Newborn Brain Society every 3-4 months on topics of high relevance. Dr. Volpe is the founding father of the field of neonatal neurology and brings over 60 years of clinical experience, alongside a depth of pathophysiological and neurobiological expertise to reflect on issues of clinical relevance in our field. Dr. Volpe remains as the Emeritus Bronson Crothers Professor of Neurology, at Harvard Medical School and editor-in-chief of Volpe's Neurology of the Newborn, which be published as an updated 7th edition in 2024. We are all grateful to Dr. Volpe for his continued scholarly mission to educate and guide us.

Commentary #1 is called "Erythropoietin and the HEAL Study: Timing Issues".

The URL to the page on our website is <https://newbornbrainsociety.org/volpes-view/>

CALL FOR NOMINATION

**SUBMIT
NOMINATION**

TERM 2025-2027

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

If you have questions about the nominations and elections process, please contact info@newbornbrainsociety.org.

NOW OPEN!

If you are a member looking to make a bigger impact within the Society, we invite you to contribute by serving in a leadership role or as a committee member in one of our various committees.

Nominations will close May 12, 2024.

OPEN POSITIONS

- President-Elect

- Steering Committee Member
- Chair of Finance Committee, Board of Directors Member, and Treasurer
- Chair of Guidelines and Publications and Board of Directors Member
- Chair of QI and Research and Board of Directors Member

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

Neonatal Neurocritical Care (NNCC) Fellowship Training

Accreditation

Timeline

Two accreditation cycles per year:

- January 31
- July 31

Eligibility Criteria

- Institutional support
- Facilities and resources
- Faculty

Program Requirements

Certification

Examination Criteria

- Valid license in the United States or Canada
- Completion of one of the four eligible pathways:
 - UCNS accredited fellowship
 - Practice track
 - Academic appointment at a UCNS-accredited NNCC fellowship training program
 - Internationally trained applicants with appointments at an NNCC-accredited training program

Examination Criteria

Get more information by visiting: www.newbornbrainsociety.org/nncc-accreditation

Nursing Mandate Statement

“Empowering nurses worldwide to provide exemplary neonatal neuroprotective care.”

NBS nurses have joined together to bring resources, collaborative projects, and learning opportunities to nurses working in neonatal neurocritical care. The Nursing Task Force was conceived to not only provide valuable resources to the current NBS nursing community but also to cultivate connections to amplify the mission of NBS. In March of 2023, the Task Force launched quarterly nursing webinars, which are free to register and available in the NBS member portal.

Empowering nurses in neonatal neuroprotective care through:

- Continuing Education through webinars
- Leadership opportunities
- Collaboration in research and quality improvement
- Innovative projects and transformation into practice
- Optimizing family integration into care

To learn more or to join, contact Helen Vardanyan at h.vardanyan@newbornbrainsociety.org.

The NBS Nursing Task Force **NEEDS YOU!**

WHAT IS THE NBS TASKFORCE?

A group of passionate nurses from all over the world empowering each other to provide exemplary neonatal neurocritical care



WHO CAN JOIN?

Driven nurses seeking to lead and advocate for neonatal brain health in their organization and beyond



WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

- Continuing education through webinars
- Collaboration in research and quality improvement projects with transformation into practice
- Optimizing family integration into care for their baby
- Leadership opportunities



WANT TO KNOW MORE OR JOIN?

Please reach out to **Helen Vardanyan** at
h.vardanyan@newbornbrainsociety.org



EDUCATIONAL LIVE WEBINARS

Every Thursday | 12 PM ET

Teaching Webinar Modules

Last year, the NBS Education Committee launched a set of online educational modules covering a wide range of topics from neonatal EEG to fetal brain development to perinatal brain injury, and more. They are developed to intersect with the Neonatal Neurocritical Care (NNCC) curriculum and can be used for general review, test preparation, or supplemental training courses. Videos are then followed by helpful quizzes to test your knowledge. Access modules through your NBS member portal and are offered through Thinkific.

Released modules:

- Neonatal Seizures
- Preterm Brain Injury
- Neonatal Cranial Ultrasonography
- Fetal Brain Development and Injuries
- aEEG and EEG Trends

[Educational Webinars](#)

[Member Portal](#)

FEBRUARY 8

Acute Bilirubin Encephalopathy: Perspective from Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Astha Amrit

FEBRUARY 15

Trainee Session: A Preterm Neonate with IVH

Pratima Anand

FEBRUARY 22

Research Session: Iron Sufficiency and Transfusions in Neurocritical Care

Kendell German

FEBRUARY 28

-- MARCH 2

15th INBBC

Hybrid | Cork, Ireland

MARCH 7

Leukodystrophies : Neonatal Presentations

Mark Engelen



[VIEW FULL CALENDER + RSVP](#)

NeoNERD LatAm Series

Neonatal Neurology Educational Rounds for Latin America.

Educational webinars in Spanish. First Tuesday of every month.

Next Session: February 6 at 7pm ET | Title: Hipotonía Neonatal

[Learn More & RSVP](#)



NEOBRAIN BRAZIL2024

2nd PBSF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON NEUROPROTECTION AND
NEONATAL BRAIN MONITORING

2ND PBSF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEUROPROTECTION AND NEONATAL BRAIN MONITORING

Endorsed by the Newborn Brain Society

Created in 2019, NeoBrain Brazil is an International Congress on Brain Monitoring and Neuroprotection Organized by the Protecting Brains and Saving Futures (PBSF).

The primary objective of the event is to engage in profound discussions surrounding neuroprotection protocols and dedicated brain-focused care tailored for high-risk infants. In its second edition, NeoBrain Brazil is proud to host 11 distinguished international speakers, including several esteemed members of the Newborn Brain Society.

By bringing together leading experts and a broad cross-section of professionals, NeoBrain Brazil expects approximately 1000 attendees and aims to be one of the largest and most impactful conferences in Latin America specifically focused on neonatal neuroprotection strategies. The audience comprises a diverse spectrum of healthcare professionals, including general pediatricians, neonatologists, neonatal nurses, respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, and medical and nursing students.

Central Theme:
**The Preterm
Brain**

[AGENDA](#)

[REGISTER](#)

NBS members are eligible for a 30% discount on registration.



[REGISTRATION OPEN](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

PAS Meeting 2024
May 2 - 6 | Toronto, Canada

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

**NBS MEET & GREET
BREAKFAST**
Saturday, May 4th
6:30am - 8:00am



Lessons Learned from Life in Neonatal Neurology

Dr. Terrie Inder

I am privileged and so very grateful that I have had the opportunity to undertake this career pathway in the newborn brain. It was not something that I immediately knew was my purpose - but I learned to listen to my heart and followed it.

I grew up in New Zealand in a middle-class family where the values of hard work and focusing on your goals were central. Education, which had not been afforded to my parents, was central to their gifts to their children, particularly to my mother with her daughters. I undertook medical school, pediatric, and neonatal training in New Zealand, guided by where I felt I could succeed in helping others. Research was not something that I sought out, but rather was offered to me when I wanted to work part-time after the birth of my first child. Once I started to learn the power of discovery, then I was immediately drawn in.

I remained open to such serendipitous events throughout my career that allowed unique opportunities for me - including starting to undertake magnetic resonance imaging in babies while I was training in child neurology in Boston due to the friendship and mentorship of Dr. Petra Huppi, the opportunity to undertake histopathology in a unique preterm primate model with Dr. Sandra Rees, and the ability to be guided in career choices by so many wiser than I, such as Drs. Volpe, De Vries, and Ferriero.

My patients and clinical experiences have always informed the research questions and needs and continue to do so, such that I truly believe that the very best in science is discovered in parallel. My professional satisfaction comes from knowing that I can try my very best to find answers that may help the baby and family in front of me today. This career road has not always been easy. Often, I have overcommitted myself, been blind to the impact on others of my single-minded focus, and not listened carefully enough. Life has taught me many important lessons, particularly from my failures. I remain focused now on simple principles that include:

- a) *Purpose* - what am I here to do and how can I best do it?
- b) *People* - how can I spend my time with people who inspire me to be my best self and how can I bring the very best out of each of them? I have had such a tremendous opportunity to work with some of the very best in people from many different disciplines contributing their skills to solutions in complementary ways. I have never been a single principal investigator, but always worked in a team and found that immensely rewarding. Mentors, mentees, friends, and colleagues are my greatest source of joy in my professional life. Finally,
- c) *Pride* - we are so very critical of ourselves, and we need to find space for gratitude and acknowledgment so that we can keep a healthy perspective - even when times are hard.

I hope that you will enjoy your lifelong journey in the newborn brain - it's a long and winding road but around every corner, you may have the joy of discovering something in our science alongside something about yourself. Find and follow your purpose, make great friends, and celebrate yourself and others. As Robert Louis Stevenson said, "An aim in life is the only fortune worth finding."

Conversation with Terrie Inder and Christopher Smyser

This section aims to bring fresh viewpoints from NBS members to our readers. Each edition will feature a series of interviews conducted by NBS members who are also mentees. Mentees, serving as interviewers, engage and discuss with their mentors, the interviewees. Alongside conventional questions, we hope these discussions will foster a stronger understanding between mentors and mentees.

Chris: Hello, I'm Chris Smyser. I'm a pediatric neurologist at Washington University in Saint Louis, and it is my distinct pleasure to be joined today by Doctor Terrie Inder as part of the Newborn Brain Society mentor-mentee interview series. So, Terry, I'd like to just start by having you introduce yourself in terms of where you're from and your background. And we'll take things from there.

Terrie: Thanks so much, Chris and hi everyone. It's a pleasure to be here. My name is Terry Inder. I'm a native New Zealander by origin and undertook my undergraduate medical training—pediatric and neonatal training in New Zealand before coming to Boston to do child neurology training for three years, then relocating back down under for a period of time before being recruited to Wash. U. in Saint Louis, where I had the privilege to be for eight years before being recruited to Boston for nine years. And now recently have landed in California. I'm thrilled to be a mother of three children and to be a member of the Newborn Brain Society.

Chris: Great. So just trying to get the audience to know you a little bit better. Tell us what life in Christchurch and growing up in New Zealand was like, and then what led you to your current path from an educational perspective?

Terrie: Yeah, thanks Chris. So growing up in New Zealand, my father had many amazing talents, but his principal job was a property developer and builder, and my mother left high school before graduating to look after her family. So, you know, medical school in college was pretty unknown to my parents, but education was critically important, and I was one of four siblings. We were all incredibly active and busy all in competitive sports. For myself, it was swimming and we were encouraged to reach for the stars in terms of our educational aspirations.

I think the only thing that was challenging for me in New Zealand was the educational system was not sure exactly how to handle people that were quick learners, and so the way they handled it was to accelerate me through, and I missed or skipped two years of school, so I graduated at the age of 16 into medical school, which in New Zealand, is a six or seven-year course. So it was pretty young and I think that it may have had an impact in terms of my ability to really reach the important maturational goals before you launch into other parts of life.

Chris: And, so, what drew you into medicine more generally, at least initially, and then the path that you took all the way into the space of neonatal neurology,

which at the time you entered it, was still a relatively nascent field.

Terrie: Yeah. Thanks, Chris. So I was always inspired by our family doctor at home. He had a little practice attached to his home and he did house visits when all four of us were sick at the same time because we were all close in age. And he looked after me. He delivered me and he looked after me all the way until I was in my 20s and was a kind and knowledgeable person. So I went into medicine thinking that's exactly what I was going to be, a family physician. And it wasn't until I was in my final years of medical training in my 6th year that I realized it wasn't what really, you know, excited me. But Pediatrics did, and particularly inspired me because of the strength of the spirit of the children and the babies and their desire to get well.



Portrait of Dr. Terrie Inder

And I really wanted to help them. In terms of neonatology, again, I went into Pediatrics not knowing I was going to be a neonatologist, but the combination of technical skills, intellectual skills, and human interaction really captured me in neonatology. And when I went into neonatology, I was very touched by the families whose babies had brain injuries. And I wanted to be able to make a difference. So I pulled off the shelf our first edition book I found in the library written by a guy called Joe Volpe. And I read it and I was like, wow, this is really interesting. I'd love to go and train with this guy. That led to the phone call to Boston to try and find out how to train with the response that, you know, I had to undertake a formal child neurology training first, and then we'd see about neonatal neurology after that.

Chris: And just touching on your relationship with Dr. Volpi, which anybody who has talked with you knows has been extremely powerful in terms of shaping your career, and that continues to this day, to my understanding. But tell me a little bit about your mentor-mentee relationship with him, and how that's evolved over the course of time. And then what you've learned from that and how you emulate that with people like myself, who you've been so generous with over many years.

Terrie: Thanks, Chris. You know, Dr. Volpe has been a powerful, and remains a powerful, mentor in every way that a mentor should be—both my scientific and intellectual thinking, for which he is extraordinary, as well as more, perhaps personal, sometimes professional reflections. And when I need someone who I know knows me, then he's someone I can go to. Our relationship started fundamentally just as an attending and a resident on the floor in my first month of service, and it grew over time out of incredible, obviously mutual respect, but it also grew because my interest in the newborn brain obviously aligned with his knowledge base. So being able to find a mentor who really has that same passion and purpose was really a fundamental foundation for our relationship.

Thank you for reading a preview of Dr. Terrie Inder and Christopher Smyser's interview.

[LISTEN TO FULL INTERVIEW HERE](#)

Conversation with Harvey Sarnat and Khorshid Mohammad

Khorshid: Good afternoon, Dr. Sarnat. Thank you very much for being here and having this interview with us, with the Newborn Brain Society. I'm so excited to meet with you, and I'm so privileged and honored to call you a mentor of mine and, really, a role model. Dr. Harvey Sarnat is a professor of pediatric neurology and pediatric neuropathology here at the University of Calgary.

He has many, many accomplishments and publications, book chapters, books that can go on and on and on. And really what he's known for in the field of neonatology is a celebrity for us, for his *Sarna and Sarna*, HIE staging, which is a small portion of his work, but he's known for that staging that everybody in the world is using to stage the HIE. So, thank you very much Dr. Harvey for being here and share some of your stories and insights with us.



Photo of Dr. Sarnat (right) and Dr. Mohammad (left)

Harvey: Well, thank you Khorshid , for inviting me. It's a privilege and an honor to be here and to be, to be interviewed in this way. And, and I feel very humbled by this experience.

Khorshid: Thank you so much. So I wanted to start by asking you to tell us some of the history; how you got here and became a pediatric neurologist and pediatric neuropathologist, if you don't mind telling us some of that history.

Harvey: Well, I can give you some of that history. I actually was born and grew up in the United States in Chicago, and did my undergraduate training at the University of Illinois with a major in zoology.

And I planned to get a PhD in Zoology. And I was really enamored with that as a career because I had always been very interested in comparative anatomy and in development, especially, as long as I can remember, since childhood. I was even watching seeds develop into plants, and trees, and animals developing, as well.

And so for me, this was a natural, career in zoology. It was my father who convinced me to go to medical school, because he always wanted to be a doctor, but he grew up in during the Depression in the 1930s and couldn't continue his education because he had to work and take care of his family. And, so I resisted the idea, and he was very clever about how he appro-

ached this. He told me that, well, why don't you just apply to see if you get accepted? Well, I had pretty good grades, and so I didn't think that was a big issue. And he said, well, look: you can try one year in medical school, and if you don't like it, go back to zoology.

But if you look at the curriculum in the first year of medical school, all of those courses are equally applicable to zoology, and you won't lose any credit.



I devoted my whole career to a combination of clinical pediatric neurology, explaining the anatomical basis for development, and studying neuropathology. This combination made me a better clinician and a better pathologist.

What do you take? You take courses in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and it was true. Those would've been applicable for a zoology career. And, so I applied and I was accepted into dual program ,a combined, medical doctorate degree and master of science in neuroanatomy. And I had a superb professor in neuroanatomy at that time, who was my mentor, and he really guided me.

My professor of Zoology also was an undergraduate, was excellent. I was very fortunate to have those people in my background. And so, I went, I finished my training and my medical school, I should say. And then for development, of course,

you need pediatrics. So I did a pediatric residency and spent a lot of time in neonatology as well during that time. And, then I went on and did two other residencies in pediatric neurology and in neuropathology, because I was morphologically oriented from my previous experience in zoology and my master's in, neuroanatomy. And, from that time on, I devoted my whole career to a combination of clinical pediatric neurology. Watching, trying to explain the anatomical basis for development in newborns and fetuses even.

And also, studying this from a standpoint of neuropathology of, the development of the brain and its spinal cord and muscle. And, I've had, I've been very fortunate in having some success in my career and having found some things that I think are probably important places and continue to do so in my present investigations.

And, so at least for me, this was a combination career that made me a better clinician by my background in pathology and made me a better pathologist as from my background in clinical pediatric neurology.

And I think that it's been very rewarding to me, in this career, that I've been able to make contribution and meet many colleagues who [I] esteem greatly.

Thank you for reading a preview of Dr. Harvey Sarnat and Khorshid Mohammad's interview.

LISTEN TO FULL INTERVIEW HERE

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Merchandise**



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Mission**

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Join our global community today!

Learn, network, and collaborate with other professionals focused on newborn brain care.

Access to member-only online educational, QI and research resources

Access to library of educational webinars led by experts in the field

Grants to support the work of early-stage researchers

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Free membership for Junior members in a training program

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DONATE TODAY

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