



# Newborn Brain Society

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 2024 | Volume 16



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**February 19 - 21, 2025**

## 16th International Newborn Brain Conference



## *A New Year, A New Location!*

### ***INSIDE THIS ISSUE***

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- 2 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting
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### **Mark Your Calendars**

We're excited to announce that the International Newborn Brain Conference (INBBC) is headed to **La Jolla, CA, USA!**

### **Location**

Hyatt Regency La Jolla  
California, USA

Stay tuned for more details!

Visit [www.newbornbrainconference.com](http://www.newbornbrainconference.com)

# PAS 2024

PEDIATRIC ACADEMIC SOCIETIES MEETING

MAY 2-6, 2024  
TORONTO, CANADA

The Newborn Brain Society is gearing up for the upcoming Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting. As proud affiliates, we join thousands of esteemed pediatric researchers, clinicians, and educators from around the world in advancing scientific discovery and innovation in child and adolescent health.

We're excited to highlight the numerous neonatal neurology sessions at the conference, which are of particular interest to our community. To make it easier for attendees to navigate these sessions, we have prepared a comprehensive roadmap, ensuring that members can make the most of this valuable opportunity to engage with the latest developments in newborn brain research.

## Neonatal Neurology PAS Roadmap

[Download PDF](#)

## Join Us at Our Meet & Greet Breakfast



**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024**  
**6:30 AM - 8:00 AM**

**RSVPs are open** for our annual Meet and Greet Breakfast! Enjoy breakfast, connect with fellow professionals, and celebrate excellence in the field. This year, we are honored to host the Honorary Fellow Award ceremony for Dr. Alistair Gunn, followed by his talk, "Staying Cool and Moving Forwards."

Our event is proudly supported by our Silver Sponsor, ReAlta Life Sciences

**RSVP**



*We look forward to connecting with colleagues and contributing to the collective mission of enhancing pediatric care. See you in Toronto!*

# LEADERSHIP & COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

**CALL FOR  
NOMINATIONS**  
**Deadline to Apply:  
May 12th**

## OPEN POSITIONS

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### LEADERSHIP

- President-Elect
- Steering Committee Member
- Chair of Finance Committee/Board of Directors Member/Treasurer
- Chair of Guidelines and Publications/Board of Directors Member
- Chair of QI and Research/Board of Directors Member
- Co-Chair of Membership Committee

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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



**TERM FY25-FY27**

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

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If you have questions about the nominations and elections process, please contact [info@newbornbrainsociety.org](mailto:info@newbornbrainsociety.org).

# EDUCATIONAL LIVE WEBINARS

Every Thursday | 12 PM ET

**APRIL 18**

*Neuro-Imaging and Neurodevelopment in Moderate and Late Preterm Infants*

Gerda Meijler

**APRIL 25**

*Research Session: Transfusions and NIRS Monitoring*

Valerie Chock

**MAY 9**

*Fetal Surgery and the Developing Brain*

Samer Elbabaa

**MAY 16**

*Trainee Session: A Neonate with Congenital Hydrocephalus*

Sriparna Basu

**MAY 23**

*Metabolic Diseases that Can Mimic HIE*

Gregory Enns



VIEW FULL  
CALENDER + RSVP

## Introducing

### Beyond the Ordinary: Rare Neobrain Webinar Series

Organized by the India Task Force

COMING  
JULY  
2024

**FOCUS:** Uncommonly encountered rare newborn diseases stemming from both genetic and non-genetic origins.

**WHEN:** New session every three months, starting July 2024

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Neonatal Physicians, RNPs, Medical Genetics Physicians, Trainees

# Neonatal Neurology Educational Rounds for Latin America (NeoNERD LatAm) Series

NeoNERD LatAm recently concluded its inaugural season from October 2023 to April 2024. With an impressive attendance of nearly 1500 participants, this initiative organized by the NBS Latin America Task Force stands as a significant milestone, fostering knowledge exchange and advancement in neonatal brain care across the region. All six webinars of the series were presented in Spanish followed by Q&A with speaker and panelists. The Latin America Task Force members include Juan Pablo Appendino, Gabriel Variane,

Manuel Vides, Oscar de la Garza Pineda, Alejandra Mendez, Carlos Ivan Salazar, and Alexandra Almansa.

- 1 **Diagnóstico y tratamiento de recién nacidos con encefalopatía isquémica hipóxica**
- 2 **Encefalopatía Neonatal No Hipóxicas**
- 3 **Neuromonitoreo en neonatos**
- 4 **Hipotonía Neonatal**
- 5 **Crisis Neonatales**
- 6 **Epilepsia de Inicio Neonatal**

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## NBS Teaching Webinar Modules

The NBS Education Committee introduced a series of online educational modules in 2023, encompassing diverse subjects such as neonatal EEG, fetal brain development, perinatal brain injury, and beyond. These modules are designed to align with the Neonatal Neurocritical Care (NNCC) curriculum, serving as valuable resources for general review, exam preparation, or supplementary training. Following each video are interactive quizzes to assess

your understanding. You can access these modules via your NBS member portal and they are available on the Thinkific platform.

There are six modules available.

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

[Educational Webinars](#)

[Member Portal](#)

# Navigating Early Career Paths: Insights from Dr. Khorshid Mohammad

As part of our commitment to nurturing the professional growth of our junior members, we are delighted to present insights from one of our esteemed board members, Dr. Khorshid Mohammad. Through a series of questions, we delve into their early career experiences and professional development journey, offering valuable lessons and inspiration for those embarking on their own paths in the field.

## Background

Dr. Mohammad graduated in 2006 from the University of Damascus and Arab League with Master's degree in Pediatrics. He completed neonatal fellowship training at the University of Calgary in 2010, Neonatal Neurology training at the University of British Columbia, and Targeted Neonatal Echocardiography at Universities of British Columbia and Calgary in 2013.

In 2014, Dr. Mohammad established the Neonatal Neuro-Critical Care program in Calgary in collaboration with Pediatric Neurology. Dr. Mohammad is a founding member of the Sonographic Clinical Assessment of the Newborn (SCAN) program. Dr. Mohammad's main areas of interest are innovation in education and quality improvement.

Dr. Mohammad established Innovation in neonatal neuro-critical care education lab including cranial ultrasonography phantoms and simulators, neonatal EEG simulator, neonatal neurological exam using virtual reality and mannequins, online teaching modules in neonatal neurology and smart phone



**Khorshid Mohammad, MD,  
MSc (Pediatrics), FABP,  
FRCP (Edin), FRCPC  
(Neonatology)**

Staff neonatologist and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

Neonatology Site lead , Alberta Children's Hospital. Section of Neonatology , Calgary, Canada

NICU lead, Neuro-Critical Care Program , Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI)

Director, Newborn Neuro-Intensive Care program

Medical director, Southern Alberta Neonatal Transportation Service (SANTS)

Chair, Newborn Brain Society Education Committee

applications. He organized and led several conferences, workshops, and courses in neonatal neuro-monitoring locally and around the world. He is a founding member of the Newborn Brain Society, Chair of the Society Educational Committee and member of the Board of Directors. Dr. Mohammad is leading the effort of Neonatal Neuro-Critical Care training accreditation in Canada. His quality improvement work led to significant reduction in mortality and brain injury in extremely premature infants and term infants suffered from asphyxia and seizure. Dr. Mohammad received the Canadian Pediatric Society emerging leader in neonatology award in 2020. Dr. Mohammad's research areas of interest are education, brain perfusion, monitoring, and quality improvement neuroprotection strategies. He published many studies in those areas and holds several research grants.

***Were there specific challenges you faced during your transition from being a trainee to early career?***

**Becoming independent and most responsible person for the whole team.**

***How did you overcome them?***

**Being adaptive and honest.**

***In hindsight, is there anything you would have done differently?***

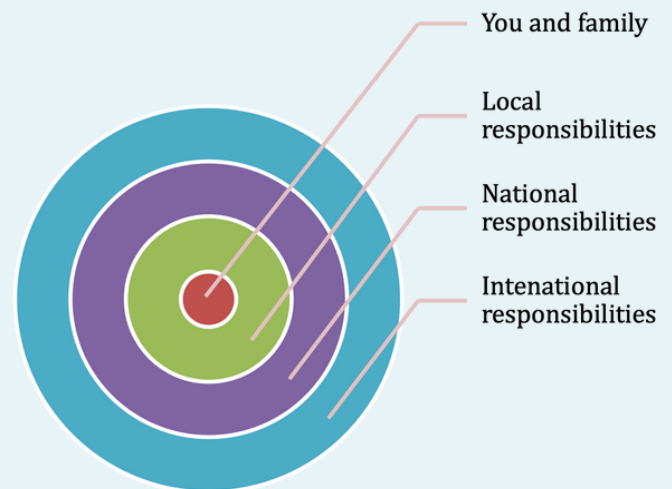
***Something that members perhaps should avoid during the early stage of their career?***

**Have the right mentors to advocate for you and encourage you to see and seize opportunities.**

**I have also created a guide that I share with my mentees (see page 9).**

***Maintaining work-life balance can be challenging. How have you managed to strike a balance between your professional and personal life?***

**I have created circles of priorities.**



**I added an item to my (to do) list and that is (promised to do) to make sure I follow up on those to avoid overpromise and underdeliver trap.**

**I exercise (running).**

**My meditation is practicing my religion (praying, fasting, volunteering, reflection, etc.).**

***What were the most significant lessons you learned during your early career?***

**Keep the curiosity, passion, and willingness to be involved in brain focused project [and] keeping in mind the “circles of priorities”.**

***How did you build and expand your professional network?***

**Collective leadership and collaboration.**

*How did you balance clinical responsibilities with research activities during your early career?*

Having diverse skills (statistics, reference managing, writing, performing echoes/CUS, reading images, technology, etc.) will make people seek your involvement. One key advice I learned from a colleague is to be willing to help and participate without asking for acknowledgement or credits. This is counterintuitive but it will increase your productivity substantially.

*Can you share some key milestones or achievements in your career that you are particularly proud of? How did these achievements shape your career trajectory and goals?*

- Taking the risk/opportunity to:
  - Move to Canada
  - Do neonatal neurology fellowship
  - Do neonatal hemodynamic fellowship
- Establishing the Neonatal Neuro-Critical Care program in Calgary
- Lead the effort of the NNCC discipline recognition in Canada



**You never transition, there will be always a trainee and a staff in you. Keeping both is key to maintain balance.**



*What advice do you have for early career professionals looking to integrate research into their practice in neonatal brain care?*

As a clinician, I always start with a bedside question and design my QI or research based on that. This approach makes any project automatically clinically relevant. Also attending conferences and meeting will help bring new ideas and establish networking and collaboration.

*Were there professional organizations, conferences, or networks that you found valuable for your career development?*

- International Newborn Brain Conference
- PAS
- EPIQ/MYCARE
- Cranial Ultrasound Course in London, UK

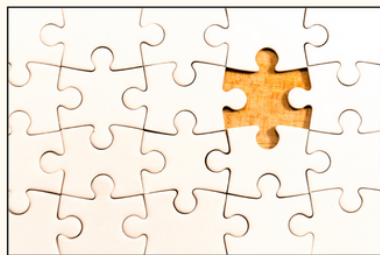
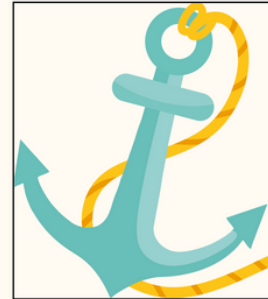
- Participate in NNCC discipline recognition in USA
- NBS weekly webinars, modules, and members portal

My career trajectory changed dramatically with each milestone. Moving to Canada, I switched my career goals from aiming to become a pediatric intensivist to a pursue neonatology. Doing neonatal neurology was an opportunity presented not a pre-planned career goal. Doing neonatal hemodynamic fellowship was based on a challenge I was faced with during my neonatal neurology training. Having versatile expertise and unique skills allowed me to move very quickly in my career from assistant professor to associate to full professor within 6 years.



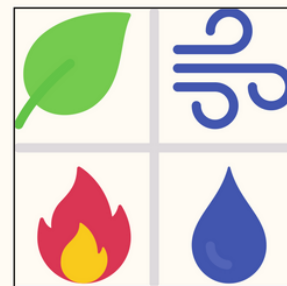
# Roadmap from volunteering to leadership

- ✓
- 1** **Dependable**
- Become dependable and reliable by **perfecting** your work and being **unconditionally** available.



- ✓
- 2** **Filling gaps**
- Identify gaps and needs to fill and **distinguish yourself**.

- ✓
- 3** **Indispensable asset**
- Become an indispensable asset by **transforming identified needs into successful projects with minimal resources**.



- ✓
- 4** **Become a leader**
- Assume leadership roles and implement significant changes



## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 17 - 18, 2024  
St. Joseph's Health  
Centre Toronto 

*Endorsed by the Newborn Brain Society*

### **Newborn Behavior Observations (NBO) High Risk Infants Training Course**

The NBO system is an infant-focused, family-centered, relationship-based tool designed to engage parents with their baby's competencies and individuality, to foster sensitive parent-infant interactions and contribute to the development of a positive parent-infant relationship from the very beginning. The sensitivity of responsive, attuned caregiving is foundational to optimal brain development.

For agenda,  
registration, and  
more information,  
click [here](#).

Upon completion of this course, participants will:

1. Become familiar with current findings on neurobehavioral development, the transition to parenthood and early parent-infant relationship development, and the theoretical foundations on which the NBO is built.
2. Become familiar with the content and uses of the NBO.
3. Learn how to administer the NBO to make behavioral observations of newborn behavior and identify newborn behavioral patterns.
4. Learn how to interpret these observations from a developmental point-of-view and will learn how to communicate this information to parents as a form of support and guidance in a way that is individualized, non-judgmental, non-prescriptive and culturally sensitive.
5. Learn to use the NBO in the context of relationship-building.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 20 - 23, 2024

Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

Banff, Alberta 

### 47th Annual AAP District VIII SONPM Conference

This conference will provide recent advances in the delivery room management of neonates, along with talks on neonatal stroke and HIE, and up-to-date information on the long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes of premature infants. Additionally, the conference will cover nutrition in neonates and explore new developments in the field of nutrition in neonatology to improve the outcomes of our tiniest newborns. This conference will offer an opportunity to meet world-renowned speakers in their particular areas and provide a chance to network for future research.

[View Website](#)

*Endorsed by the Newborn  
Brain Society*

June 21, 3:15pm - 5:20pm

### Neonatal aEEG and Seizure Diagnosis Workshop

[View Flyer](#)

### Neonatal Brain MRI Workshop

[View Flyer](#)

# Join Our Global Community

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

## Become a Member

### Membership Benefits

Special access to library of educational webinars led by experts in the field

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

Free membership for Junior members in a training program

Discounted membership dues for LMIC members

Grants to support the work of early-stage researchers

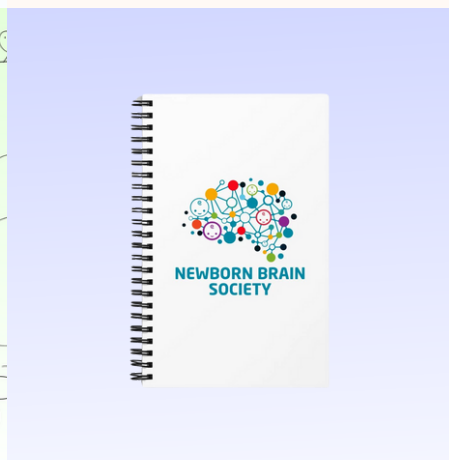
Discounts on select scientific conferences, courses, and workshops

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

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