

Target Audience

This educational activity is intended for neonatologists, child neurologists, advanced practice providers, nurses, scientists and trainees involved or interested in newborn brain care.

Learning Objectives

After completing this activity, the participant should be able to:

- Apply bedside neuroimaging/monitoring (CUS, aEEG/cEEG, NIRS)
- Design QI pathways and family-communication workflows, including telehealth
- Appraise cellular therapies and evidence in neonatal stroke/preterm injury
- Establish standardized seizure detection and escalation using aEEG/cEEG
- Adapt HIE prevention/treatment to resource-limited settings with biomarkers
- Implement PHVD pathways: measurement, escalation, and intervention timing
- Evaluate late-preterm cooling evidence and update local protocols
- Establish congenital CMV screening, counseling, and follow-up plans
- Integrate sleep-aware care (actigraphy, care journals) to improve neurodevelopmental outcomes

Activity Directors

Gabriel Fernando Todeschi Variane, MD, PhD

President, Newborn Brain Society, Conference Co-Director

Mohamed El-Dib, MD

Past President, Newborn Brain Society, Conference Co-Director

Accreditations

The conference has been accredited for **ECM** and will award a total of **6 credits**, exclusively to Italian participants and for the following professional categories:

- Medical doctor (physician/surgeon)
- Pediatric nurse
- Nurse

The Conference “17th International Newborn Brain Conference – 8th February to 10th February” has been accredited by the **European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Educational (EACCME)** for the entire Conference, for a total of **14.5 credits**. EACCME credits are recognized Europe-wide and in North America they can be exchanged for their national equivalent by contacting your national CME authority.

AMA

Through an agreement between the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes and the American Medical Association, physicians may convert EACCME® credits to an equivalent number of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Information on the process to convert EACCME® credit to AMA credit can be found at <https://edhub.ama-assn.org/pages/applications>

How to claim the credits?

Participants will be asked to fill in a questionnaire at the end of the conference.

Each participant can only receive the number of credits he/she is entitled to according to his/her actual participation at the event once he/she has completed the feedback form. CME certification will be sent directly to the email address provided during registration.

Disclaimer

The information provided at this CME/CE activity is for continuing education purposes only and is not meant to substitute for the independent medical/clinical judgment of a health-care provider relative to diagnostic and treatment options for a specific patient's medical condition.

Conference Directors

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Organizing Institution



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17TH INTERNATIONAL NEWBORN BRAIN CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 8-10, 2026 • NAPLES, ITALY

newbornbrainconference.com

Organizing Institution



NBS
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SOCIETY

The **Newborn Brain Society** was conceived with a comprehensive vision and mission focusing on the newborn brain. We envision a world in which all newborns have access to, and receive, the optimal brain care. Our mission is to advance newborn brain care through international multidisciplinary collaboration, education, and innovation among clinicians, scientists, and parents. The society is governed by a Board of Directors and its vision and mission are maintained through the help of an advisory Steering Committee. The aforementioned objectives are fulfilled by 6 committees including the Membership, Financial, Educational, Guidelines and Publications, Communication and Networking, and Quality Improvement and Research Committees.

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SUNDAY 8th February, 2026 (Pre-Conference Workshops)

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM **Registration Opens** (Workshops only)

Conference Workshops*

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM **WORKSHOP SESSIONS A** (7 parallel workshops)

- 1 Neuroimaging in term neonates** (Hybrid) - **ARAGONESE ROOM**
Speakers: Linda De Vries (Netherlands), Sonia Bonifacio (USA)
- 2 Neuroimaging in preterm** (In-person) - **AUDITORIUM**
Speakers: Terrie Inder (USA), Christopher Smyser (USA)
- 3 CUS - Hands on simulation** (In-person) - **SVEVA ROOM**
Speakers: Khorshid Mohammad (Canada), Lara Leijser (Canada)
- 4 aEEG & cEEG basics** (In-person) - **CATALANA ROOM**
Speakers: Geraldine Boylan (Ireland), Lena Hellstrom-Westas (Sweden)
- 5 Quality improvement** (Online) - **Part A**
Speakers: Jehier Afifi (Canada), Bharati Sinha (USA), Tetyana Nesterenko (USA), Sandesh Shivananda (Canada)
- 6 NIRS** (In-person) - **SANTA LUCIA ROOM**
Speakers: Valerie Chock (USA), Mohamed El-Dib (USA)
- 7 Communicating uncertainty in HIE** (Hybrid) - **NORMANNA ROOM**
Speakers: Betsy Pilon (USA), Danielle Barber (USA)

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM **Coffee Break**

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM **WORKSHOP SESSIONS B** (7 parallel workshops)

- 1 Neuroimaging in term neonates** (In-person) - **SANTA LUCIA ROOM**
Speakers: Linda de Vries (Netherlands), Sonia Bonifacio (USA)
- 2 Neuroimaging in preterm** (Hybrid) - **ARAGONESE ROOM**
Speakers: Terrie Inder (USA), Christopher Smyser (USA)
- 3 CUS - Hands on simulation** (In-person) - **SVEVA ROOM**
Speakers: Khorshid Mohammed (Canada), Lara Leijser (Canada)
- 4 aEEG & cEEG basics** (In-person) - **CATALANA ROOM**
Speakers: Geraldine Boylan (Ireland), Lena Hellstrom-Westas (Sweden)
- 5 Quality improvement** (Online) - **Part B**
Speakers: Jehier Afifi (Canada), Bharati Sinha (USA), Tetyana Nesterenko (USA), Sandesh Shivananda (Canada)
- 6 Multimodal monitoring for neonatal brain health and physiology** (In-person) - **AUDITORIUM**
Speakers: Valerie Chock (USA), Gabriel Variance (Brazil)
- 7 Telehealth implementation** (Hybrid) - **NORMANNA ROOM**
Speakers: Alexa Craig (USA), Betsy Ostrander (USA)

12:00 PM - 1:45 PM **Lunch Break**

1:45 PM - 2:00 PM **Opening Remarks** (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Gabriel Variance (Brazil), Mohamed El-Dib (USA)

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM Keynote Lecture (Hybrid Session)

Brains at work: the neonatal neurology journey from W.J. Little to the digital twin *Speaker: Luca Ramenghi (Italy)*

CELLULAR THERAPIES FOR NEONATAL BRAIN INJURY (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Moderators: John Barks (USA) and Christopher Elitt (USA)

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM **Tiny messengers, big Impact: extracellular vesicle signaling in neonatal brain Injury** *Speaker: Eric Peeples (USA)*

* Please note that participation to workshops is NOT included in the conference registration fee; you may add 2 workshop sessions during the registration process.

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM **Cell therapies for preterm brain injury** *Speaker: Atul Malhotra (Australia)*

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM **MSC treatment for perinatal arterial ischemic stroke**
Speaker: Manon Benders (Netherlands)

4:00 PM - 6:30 PM **Welcome Reception & Poster Walk** - Topics

- Fetal neurology and neonatal Brain development: both normal and abnormal aspects
- Quality improvement
- Neonatal neurocritical care: Includes seizures, continuous aEEG, and EEG monitoring
- Other forms of brain monitoring, such as NIRS, fMRI, biochemical, etc.

MONDAY 9th February, 2026

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM **Registration**

HIE IN RESOURCE-LIMITED SETTINGS (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Moderators: Gina Rencken (South Africa) and Renee Shellhaas (USA)

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM **The global landscape of HIE: how resource settings shape perinatal care and disease burden** *Speaker: Jackie Patterson (USA)*

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM **Optimising early childhood outcomes for children with HIE and their families in resource limited settings** *Speaker: Cally Tann (UK)*

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM **HIE in South Africa - molecular pathogenesis and biomarker discovery**
Speaker: Michael Pepper (South Africa)

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM **Coffee Break**

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM **NBS-TEC Mixer (*RSVP only)**

SLEEP IN THE NEONATE: IMPACT AND OUTCOME (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Moderators: Marie Cornet (USA) and Mary Anne Ryan (Ireland)

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM **Neonatal sleep physiology and early executive functioning in preterm infants** *Speaker: Anneleen Dereymaeker (Belgium)*

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM **Assessing sleep-wake patterns of preterm infants using actigraphy and care journals: a feasibility study** *Speaker: Natalie Hunt (USA)*

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM **Disordered sleep in high-risk Infants: impacts from NICU to childhood**
Speaker: Renee Shellhaas (USA)

11:45 AM - 1:30 PM **Lunch Break**

11:45 AM - 12:45 AM **NBS Nursing Lunch Mixer (*RSVP only)**

12:45 AM - 1:15 PM **Industry supported session NO-ECM** - **AUDITORIUM**

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM **Abstract platform presentation 1** (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Moderators: Brian Walsh (Ireland) and Adam Numis (USA)

3:00 PM - 3:45 PM **Coffee Break**

THE ANDY WHITELAW SESSION ON PHVD (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Moderators: Linda De Vries (Netherlands) and Mohamed El-Dib (USA)

3:45 PM - 4:15 PM **Role of autotaxin in pathophysiology of posthemorrhagic hydrocephalus**
Speaker: Maria Lehtinen (USA)

4:15 PM - 4:45 PM **Protocolization of PHVD diagnosis and management: A QI initiative**
Speaker: Lara Leijser (Canada)

4:45 PM - 5:15 PM **Novel etiologies and treatments of hydrocephalus**
Speaker: Kristopher Kahle (USA)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM **Reception & Poster Walk** - Topics

- Neuroprotection strategies in fetuses and neonates
- Neuro-imaging studies
- Long-term outcomes & developmental care: includes palliative care, ethical dilemmas, and challenging clinical scenarios in neonatal neurology

TUESDAY 10th February, 2026

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM **Registration**

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM **Abstract platform presentation 2** (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Moderators: Khorshid Mohammad (Canada) and Jennifer Keene (USA)

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM **Coffee Break**

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS 1** (In-person)

Developmental care during TH - **CATALANA ROOM**
Speakers: Diane Wilson (Canada), Mary Anne Ryan (Ireland)

Management during HIE - **AUDITORIUM**
Speakers: Sonia Bonifacio (USA), Hannah Glass (USA)

Neonatal neurocritical care training - **SVEVA ROOM**
Speakers: Khorshid Mohammad (Canada), Christopher Smyser (USA)

Working with industry - **SANTA LUCIA ROOM**
Speakers: Brian Walsh (Ireland), Betsy Pilon (USA), Peter Anderson (USA)

Seizure diagnosis and management - **ARAGONESE ROOM**
Speakers: Adam Numis (USA), Francesco Pisani (Italy)

Quality improvement: preterm newborn QI such as nursing care bundles - **NORMANNA ROOM** *Speakers: Jehier Afifi (Canada), Bharati Sinha (USA), Tetyana Nesterenko (USA), Sandesh Shivananda (Canada)*

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS 2** (In-person)

Developmental care during TH - **CATALANA ROOM**
Speakers: Diane Wilson (Canada), Mary Anne Ryan (Ireland)

Management during HIE - **ARAGONESE ROOM**
Speakers: Sonia Bonifacio (USA), Hannah Glass (USA)

Neonatal neurocritical care training - **SVEVA ROOM**
Speakers: Khorshid Mohammad (Canada), Christopher Smyser (USA)

Connecting families to resources - **SANTA LUCIA ROOM**
Speakers: Alexa Craig (USA), Betsy Pilon (USA)

Seizure diagnosis and management - **AUDITORIUM**
Speakers: Adam Numis (USA), Francesco Pisani (Italy)

Quality improvement: preterm newborn QI such as nursing care bundles - **NORMANNA ROOM** *Speakers: Jehier Afifi (Canada), Bharati Sinha (USA), Tetyana Nesterenko (USA), Sandesh Shivananda (Canada)*

12:30 AM - 2:15 PM **Lunch Break**

12:30 AM - 1:20 PM **Industry supported session NO-ECM** - **AUDITORIUM**

DEBATE SYMPOSIUM: COOLING LATE PRETERM (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Moderators: Hannah Glass (USA) and Eric Peeples (USA)

2:15 PM - 2:45 PM **Preclinical studies of hypothermia for HIE in preterm infants**
Speaker: Alistair Gunn (New Zealand)

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM **Pro: evidence from clinical experience** *Speaker: Mohamed El-Dib (USA)*

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM **Con: evidence from the NICHD neonatal research network hypothermia trial in preterm infants 33-35 weeks gestation**
Speaker: Abbot Laptook (USA)

3:45 PM - 4:15 PM **Coffee Break**

SCREENING AND IMPACT OF CONGENITAL CMV (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Moderators: Sarah Mulkey (USA) and Eleanor Molloy (Ireland)

4:15 PM - 4:45 PM **Fetal screening for congenital CMV: clinical approach**
Speaker: Karen Castillo (Spain)

4:45 PM - 5:15 PM **Universal screening for CMV** *Speaker: Jessica Dunn (Canada)*

5:15 PM - 5:45 PM **Impact of CMV** *Speaker: Megan Pesch (USA)*

5:45 PM - 6:00 PM **Closing remarks** (Hybrid Session) - **AUDITORIUM**
Gabriel Variance (Brazil), Mohamed El-Dib (USA)