

Quarterly Newsletter

NEWBORN BRAIN SOCIETY



18th

International Newborn Brain Conference (INBBC)

DATE: March 11–13, 2027

LOCATION: São Paulo, Brazil

 **REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!**

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We're heading to São Paulo – and we can't wait to welcome you to this special gathering of the newborn brain community!

Join us for the 18th International Newborn Brain Conference, hosted by the Newborn Brain Society, with both in-person and online participation available.

Over three days, newborn brain care specialists from around the world will come together for expert-led workshops, sessions, and discussions on optimizing neurodevelopmental outcomes in newborns.

newbornbrainconference.com



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INBBC 2027: An Invitation from Our President

The International Newborn Brain Conference, taking place in São Paulo, Brazil, from March 11–13, 2027, will bring together clinicians, scientists, nurses, allied health professionals, innovators, and families committed to advancing newborn brain care. By connecting fundamental discovery, translational research, and clinical practice, the conference will provide a global forum to examine the latest evidence and define the next priorities in neonatal neuroscience.

Our scientific program will explore major advances in neonatal neurocritical care, including neuromonitoring, neuroimaging, seizures, therapeutic hypothermia, neuroprotection, precision medicine, artificial intelligence, and long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes. Just as importantly, we will focus on how these advances can be translated into standardized, equitable, and scalable models of care across diverse clinical settings, ensuring that scientific progress reaches newborns and families everywhere.

Hosting this conference in Brazil represents an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen collaboration across different countries, disciplines, and health systems. We hope every participant will leave São Paulo not only with new scientific knowledge, but also with renewed purpose, meaningful partnerships, and the conviction that, by working together, we can transform the future of newborn brain health worldwide.



Gabriel Variane, MD, PhD

President, Newborn Brain Society

Conference Director,

International Newborn Brain Conference 2027

INBBC 2027 – Key topics include:

- Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy and therapeutic hypothermia
- Perinatal determinants of newborn brain health
- Neonatal brain monitoring in the intensive care unit
- Neonatal neuroimaging and brain development
- Neonatal seizures and neurocritical care
- The preterm brain and prevention of neurological injury
- Oxygen, ventilation, and preterm brain development
- Congenital heart disease and its impact on brain development
- Genomic medicine, and emerging gene-based therapies in neonatal neurology
- Innovation, artificial intelligence, and digital health in neonatology
- Nursing and multidisciplinary neurodevelopmental care
- Family-centered care and neurodevelopmental support
- Quality improvement, education, and implementation of best practices in neonatal neurocritical care

Visit our [website](#) for the full program and other important information



Both in-person and online participation are available for this edition!

Abstract Submissions

Topics:

OPENING SOON!

- Fetal Neurology and Neonatal Brain
- Development: Both normal and abnormal aspects
- Neuroprotection Strategies in Fetuses and Neonates
- Neonatal Neurocritical Care: Includes seizures, continuous aEEG, and EEG monitoring
- Other forms of brain monitoring, such as NIRS, fMRI, biochemical, etc.
- Neuro-imaging Studies
- Long-term Outcomes & Developmental Care: Includes palliative care, ethical dilemmas, and challenging clinical scenarios in neonatal neurology
- Quality Improvement

Final Days to Submit Your LOI

Impact Award (Inaugural Year)

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

The support mechanism consists of \$10,000 (no indirect costs allowed).

We encourage NBS members who are early- to mid-career clinicians or researchers to apply.

The project should be a clinically oriented, research, or implementation initiative with the potential for high impact on the brain care of newborns and children at a community or population level.

[SUBMIT LOI](#)

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- ✓ Be an NBS member
- ✓ Hold an MD, PhD, MD/PhD, RN, NNP, PT/OT, MPH, or equivalent credential
- ✓ Be based in an LMIC
- ✓ Be an early- to mid-career clinician or researcher
- ✓ Be actively involved in newborn brain health or neurodevelopment

Applicants must not:

- ✗ Hold a full professorship
- ✗ Lead a major independently funded research program
- ✗ Have ≥ \$100,000 in sustained external funding as lead applicant

IMPORTANT DATES

Letter of Intent Deadline

August 1, 2026

Application Deadline

October 1, 2026

Award Announcement

December 15, 2026



Early Career Award

The NBS Early Career Award is a program initiated in 2022 and organized by the Quality Improvement and Research Committee to support investigators with a focus on the fetal and neonatal brain.

The support mechanism consists of \$10,000 (no indirect costs allowed).

We encourage people from under-represented groups in medicine to apply.

The research topic should be focused on advancing fetal or newborn brain care and can be a basic science, translational, quality improvement or clinical project. Successful applicants are expected to present their completed work at the subsequent INBBC or PAS Meeting.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- ✓ Be an NBS member
- ✓ Hold one of the following degrees or credentials: MD, PhD, MD/PhD, RN, NNP, PT/OT, MPH, or be an allied health professional.
- ✓ Be in training or within five years of completing their most recent training (e.g., clinical trainee, postdoctoral fellow, or junior faculty).

Applicants must NOT

- ✗ hold total current operating (non-salary) funding ≥ \$100,000 US dollars.

[SUBMIT LOI](#)

Announcing Our Incoming Leadership and Committee Members

As we prepare for the new term beginning October 1st, we are pleased to introduce the newest members of our leadership team and committees. These individuals bring valuable expertise and a strong commitment to our mission, and we look forward to the insight, energy, and collaboration they will bring to the Newborn Brain Society in the years ahead.

VICE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER



Christopher Smyser, MD, MSCI
A. Ernest & Jane G. Stein Professor of Developmental Neurology
Division Chief, Division of Pediatric & Developmental Neurology
Neurologist-in-Chief, St. Louis Children's Hospital
Professor of Neurology
Professor of Pediatrics
Professor of Radiology
Professor of Psychiatry
Professor of Neurological Surgery
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Janet Soul, MDCM, FRCPC
Associate Professor of Neurology
Director, Fetal-Neonatal Neurology Program
Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School



Betsy Pilon
Executive Director, Hope for HIE.

SECRETARY AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER



Sonia Lomeli Bonifacio, MD
School of Medicine, Stanford University
Professor of Pediatrics
Director NeuroNICU
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital
Division of Neonatal and Developmental Medicine

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Juan Pablo Appendino, MD, FRCPC, CSCN (EEG), FAES
Paediatric Neurologist – Epileptologist at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.
Pediatric Neurology Division Head at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.
Professor in the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan

CHAIR OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER



Kathi Randall, MSN, CNS, NNP-BC, NTMNC
Independent NeuroNICU & Small Baby Program Consultant
International Educator & Keynote Speaker
CEO, Synapse Care Solutions
Executive Director, ONE Conference
President, Creative Therapy Consultants
Program Director, Neonatal Touch & Massage Certification Program
Member, Medical Advisory Board for Hope for HIE
Member, Newborn Brain Society, Nursing Task Force



Jennifer Burnsed, MD, MS
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology
Associate Professor of Neurology (courtesy)
Co-Director, UVA NeuroNICU Program
Director, UVA Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship
University of Virginia School of Medicine



Lisa Carruthers, RN, BSN
C-NNIC, CHSE, C-NPT
 NBS (NTF- Nursing Task Force)
 CAN (Canadian Nurses Association)
 CANN (Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses)
 COINN (Council of international Neonatal Nurses)



Nathan Zitko, MSN, APRN, NNP-BC, C-ELBW
 Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Rush University Children's Hospital
 Instructor, Rush University College of Nursing
 Doctor of Nursing Practice Student, The University of South Alabama

COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Catherine Brown, MD
 Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
 UAB Department of Child Neurology
 Fetal and Neonatal Neurology



Jan Martin, MD
 Pediatric Neurologist
 Medical Director for Pediatric Neurology, Pediatrix Medical Group
 Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, Denver CO



Ruth McLeod, PhD
 University of Connecticut in Psychological Science
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 Kutztown University of Pennsylvania



Katie Travis, PhD (Neuroscience)
 Assistant Professor,
 Department of Pediatrics and Division of Newborn Medicine,
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GUIDELINES AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Marie Brossard-Racine, OT, PhD
 Associate Professor, School of Physical and Occupational Therapy,
 McGill University



Mary Dunbar, MD, MSc (Neuroscience) MSc (Clinical Epidemiology)
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 Principal Investigator, Perinatal Brain Journeys Research Lab



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Jeffrey Russ, MD, PhD
 George W Brumley Jr, MD
 Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neurology
 Duke University

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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**Joanne Davidson, PhD, BSc
(hons)**
Department of Physiology, The
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Zealand.



Welma Lubbe
**PhD Paediatrics (Neuroscience) from
University of Cape Town, South Africa**
**PhD Nursing from North-West
University, South Africa**
**Specialist Midwife and Neonatal
Nurse**
Nurse Educator
Directors: Quality in Nursing and
Midwifery Research Focus Area
(NuMIQ), North-West University,
South Africa

Volpe's View

BY DR. JOSEPH J. VOLPE

A series of commentaries, written by Dr. Joseph Volpe, published in June 2026 exclusively for the Newborn Brain Society

**Relation of Mild Hypoxia in
Premature Infants to
Hippocampal Neuronal/Synaptic
Dysmaturation and Subsequent
Learning and Memory Deficits:
Mechanisms and Potential for
Later Correction**

Now in its thirteenth edition, this series continues his exploration of central topics in neonatal neurology and neurocritical care.

Read all commentaries:
www.newbornbrainsociety.org/commentaries-volpes-view

Upcoming Events & Activities

Precision, Practice, and Patient-Centered Innovation

August 10, 2026 - BMO Centre, Calgary

A dedicated forum on how AI is transforming healthcare delivery, augmenting clinical decision-making, and enhancing the professional judgment that defines high-quality patient care.

Event highlights:

- Hybrid format, attend in person or virtually
- Recordings available afterward for participants who couldn't attend live
- No prior AI knowledge needed, sessions are built around practical application
- CME credits included

Visit the [website](#) for registration, the full agenda, and other important information.



Endorsed by NBS

NBS Educational Live Webinars

Every Thursday 12pm ET

Supported by our Learning
and Education Partner

Medtronic

July 30

**Sildenafil for Neonatal
HIE: From Preclinical
Discovery to Clinical
Trials**

Pia Wintermark

[Register Now](#)

August 6

**Fetal Callosal
Abnormalities**

Tomo Tarui

[Register Now](#)

August 13

**Neonatal Neurology
Around the World**

Simone Huntingford

[Register Now](#)



**View full
calendar
and RSVP.**

Live session attendees can claim free CME through USF Health.

Missed a webinar? Watch the latest one on our website — available with open access for one week. Visit www.newbornbrainsociety.org/educational-webinars.

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

Neonatal Neurology Around the World

Inaugural Series (July 2026 – February 2027)

This international webinar series offers a global perspective on neonatal neurology care, bringing together experts from around the world to share how the field is practiced, organized, and evolving in their countries — from clinical protocols and outcome data to national initiatives and priorities. Attendees will gain insight into diverse healthcare systems and explore opportunities for international collaboration.



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Inaugural Series Calendar


September 3

Spain – Dr. Isabel Benavente Fernández


October 15

Austria – Dr. Katrin Klebermass-Schrehof


November 5

United Kingdom – Dr. Nora Tusor


December 3

Switzerland – Dr. Julianne Schneider


January 14

Slovenia – Dr. Aneta Solitrovska Šalamon


February 11

Turkey – Dr. Merih Cetinkaya

**Second Round
Coming in 2027!**

Strengthening Our Partnership with ESPR



The Newborn Brain Society is delighted to announce its collaboration with the European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR), launched in 2026. Built on a shared commitment to advancing neonatal and pediatric research, education, and international collaboration, this partnership creates new opportunities to connect experts across disciplines and regions.

NBS and ESPR will work together on joint educational initiatives, scientific programming, and collaborative activities designed to promote innovation and improve outcomes for newborns and their families. We are excited about what lies ahead and look forward to building a lasting partnership that benefits our global community.

[VISIT ESPR WEBSITE](#)

Evaluate the Impact of the 2026 HIE Hold-a-thon



We invite clinicians involved in neonatal care to complete a brief anonymous research survey evaluating the impact of the HIE hold-a-thon.

Your feedback will help us:

- Understand current holding practices
- Evaluate the impact of the HIE Hold-a-thon
- Improve future implementation efforts

Survey details

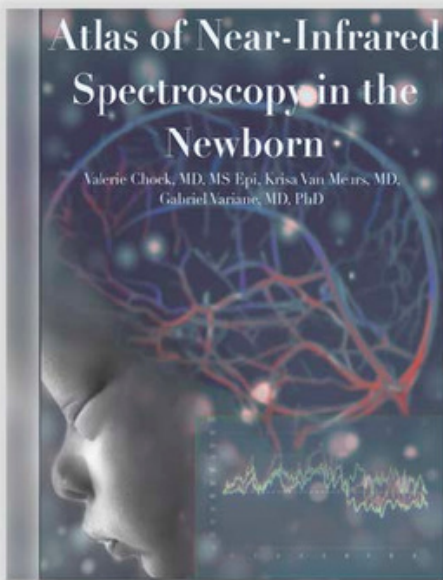
- Approximately 5 minutes to complete
- Anonymous
- Voluntary participation
- One response per institution preferred
- Participation encouraged regardless of registration status, parental holding event, or creation of a protocol



Take the survey

Please contact Elizabeth Sewell with questions about this survey at elizabeth.sewell@emory.edu

This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Completion of the survey indicates consent to participate.



Call for Case Submissions: Atlas of NIRS in the Newborn

We're inviting clinicians to submit cases for the next edition of the Atlas of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy in the Newborn. Selected cases will be included in the Atlas and authors of selected cases will be included as contributors.

Cases may focus on the use of NIRS in various clinical conditions such as: hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, prematurity, congenital heart disease, shock, cardiorespiratory failure, and during surgical interventions. Cases may also depict data from any commercially available NIRS device for real-world applicability.

[SUBMIT CASE](#)

[VIEW CURRENT ATLAS](#)

Please submit all cases by August 31, 2026

Overview

- The second edition of the Atlas of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy in the Newborn is anticipated to include 60 clinical cases and 10 overviews of NIRS topics authored by over 50 international contributors.
- The first edition of the NIRS Atlas was released April 2025 and has since been viewed online in over 80 countries.
- Over 1000 printed copies distributed globally to healthcare professionals and NICUs across the U.S., Latin America, Europe and Australia.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS & RECOGNITIONS

Natalia Borkowska

Editor

Gabriel Variane

Contributor

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

CONNECT WITH US!

For the latest news, updates, and more.



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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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