

# CHNC

## Annual Symposium

Houston, TX  
November 1-3, 2021





## Symposium Information

### HIGHLIGHTS & OBJECTIVES

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The goal of the CHNC Annual Symposium is to further our non-profit's mission of improving care for the infant patient population in the highest level NICUs in North America. Our aim is to rapidly convert research from the CHNC database as well as experience and collaboration of the CHNC membership to clinical bedside care for our NICU patients and their families.

Invited speakers who are national experts, will review current evidence and practice in quaternary neonatology clinical problems, including this year's focus on genetics, family impact of neonatal care, current approaches to gastroschisis and incorporating anti-racism in the NICU. In addition, CHNC members will present their work by abstract and platform presentations.

Workshops will lead practical sessions on topics of issues in common to children's hospitals NICUs, ranging from general quality improvement education to care of the infant with bronchopulmonary dysplasia. Multicenter collaboration present among many of the workshops will allow for sharing of knowledge in the development of best practices, with the goal of providing clinicians with implementable practice change.

We are excited to have Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine serving as our hosts for the 2021 CHNC Annual Symposium.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

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- Interdisciplinary team members caring for Level IV NICU patients
  - Neonatologists, Surgeons, Anesthesiologists
  - Advanced Practitioners, RT, RN, Allied Health Staff
  - Faculty & Trainees
  - Parents
- This collegial consortium provides an ideal opportunity for all team members to both present their work and network with colleagues.

### HOW TO REGISTER

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Register [online](#). For additional Symposium information, visit [theCHNC.org](http://theCHNC.org).

### LODGING

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- All symposium sessions will be at the Houston Omni: Four Riverway, Houston, Texas 77056
- Make your guest room [reservation online](#), or by calling (713) 871-8181 and referencing the CHNC Annual Symposium.

### COVID GUIDANCE

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While we are watching the ever-changing national and local Covid data and will follow CDC guidance, the CHNC is strongly recommending that all attendees come fully vaccinated against Covid, not the least for the safety of our patients who cannot themselves be vaccinated. Should you have already registered and cannot comply with vaccination, please contact CHNC support for a refund.



## CONTINUING EDUCATION

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Connecticut Children’s and CHNC. Connecticut Children’s is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.



Continuing education Nursing Contact Hours are being provided by Abbott Nutrition Health Institute. Abbott Nutrition Health Institute is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider #CEP 11213.



## REGISTRATION FEES

Attendee Type	Early Bird Registration (Ends 8/30)	Registration Fee	Late Registration Fee (After 10/24)
CHNC Data Coordinator	\$400	\$500	\$550
Medical Trainee (Med Student/Resident/Fellow)	\$350	\$450	\$500
Physician (MD/DO) from CHNC Member Hospital	\$600	\$700	\$750
Physician (MD/DO) from Non-CHNC Member Hospital	\$675	\$775	\$800
RN/NNP/APN/PA/Allied Health Staff	\$500	\$600	\$650
Industry Representative	\$500	\$600	\$650
NICU Parent (non-hospital employee)	\$300	\$450	\$500



## Monday, November 1

8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Breakout: Data Coordinator Working Session**

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9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **WORKSHOP: Clinical BPD Programs and Their Development, Evolution, and Maturation**  
*Christopher Baker, Anna Dierenfeld, Robert DiGeronimo, Kate Gibbs, Melissa House, Jonathan Ida, Matthew Kielt, Megan Lagoski, Winston Manimtim, Karna Murthy, Leif Nelin, Rebekah Pok, Erica Wymore*

With a rising prevalence due to a myriad of factors, bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) is gaining an increased clinical focus at children's hospitals. Though some hospitals and pediatric programs have mature approaches to their care of infants with BPD, others are still creating their programs. To share the knowledge and experiences of the established programs, we propose this workshop to focus on the development, evolution, and maturation of clinical BPD programs that are dedicated to the delivery of effective patient services to support both children with BPD and their families.

Hour 1: The importance and goals of clinical BPD programs  
Hour 2: Highlighting the Development and the Maturation of BPD Programs  
Hour 3: Supporting Patients with their Chronic Medical Needs

At the conclusion of this workshop, participants will have gained a highlighted roadmap of prior multi-center, multi-disciplinary experiences to develop, maintain, and grow a clinical program focused on BPD.

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10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **WORKSHOP: "There's No Place Like Home" -- Improving NICU Discharge Education and Preparation**  
*Malathi Balasundaram, Kari McCallie*

Often, families feel that they are not adequately prepared to 'click their heels' and bring their high-risk infant home from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This presentation will describe the design and implementation of an education program for NICU families, making specific use of digital technologies, in order to create a process that is more effective and efficient, increases parent satisfaction, and saves nursing time.

The workshop will walk participants along the 'yellow brick road' of the steps to success in NICU discharge education, including:

- 1) Assessing the scope of the problem,
- 2) Selecting and/or creating education materials,
- 3) Using technology to support discharge education, and
- 4) Measuring the success of the education program.

The workshop will follow the process outlined in our recent publication, 'Increasing Parent Satisfaction with Discharge Planning: An Improvement Project Using Technology in a Level 3 NICU' (Balasundaram et al. *Adv Neonatal Care*. 2021 Feb 4. doi: 10.1097/ANC.0000000000000841.).

In this paper, we describe how NICU families are often overwhelmed by the discharge process. Their anxiety can inhibit learning and contribute to poor infant outcomes and increased healthcare utilization after discharge. Quality of the discharge teaching is the strongest predictor of discharge readiness, so NICUs must develop excellent discharge preparation programs.

This very practical workshop is designed to have participants leave with a blueprint in-hand for improving their families discharge preparedness on the road

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10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Focus Group & QI Fair**  
Your chance to talk to ALL the CHNC Focus Group and QI Leaders in one place!

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10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **New Member Social**  
If you are new to CHNC, join us for morning coffee.

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## Monday, November 1 *(continued)*

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>Networking Lunch</b>
12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Welcome &amp; State of the CHNC</b> <i>Jacquelyn Evans, Theresa Grover, Anthony Piazza</i>
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<b>CHNC CIQI Updates</b> <i>Beverly Brozanski, Eugenia Pallotto, Anthony Piazza, Aaron Rose</i>
1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Inter-center Variability for Age at Successful Extubation in Infants with CDH</b> <i>Nicolas Porta</i>
2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>The Equipoise and Status of the Gastroschisis Outcomes of Delivery Study</b> <i>Amy Wagner</i>
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Preterm Human Milk Microbiota in VLBW Infants</b> <i>Elena Itriago</i>
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	<b>Incorporating Anti-Racism in the NICU via Quality Improvement &amp; Research</b> <i>Diana Montoya-Williams</i>
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	<b>Poster Symposium:</b> <b>Elevation of the Neonatal Sequential Organ Failure Assessment Score is Associated with Increased Mortality and Need for Surgery in Preterm Infants with Necrotizing Enterocolitis – Angela Lewis</b> <b>Enteral Tube Feeding at NICU Discharge: a Comparison of Complications – Sarah Keene</b> <b>Improving Outcomes and Reducing Avoidable NICU Utilization and Risk Through Evidence Based Feeding Strategies in VLBW Infants – Julie Gooding, James Jones</b> <b>The Impact of Early Trach on ND Outcome of Infants with sBPD Exposed to Postnatal Steroids – Amjad Taha</b> <b>NG Tube Feeding Safety: Breakthrough to Zero Harm! – Rachel Ponzek</b> <b>Pulmonary Severity Score as a Measure of Sepsis-Induced Acute Lung Injury in Preterm Infants – Megan Tucker</b> <b>Real-Time Echocardiography to Facilitate Decannulation of Neonates from VA ECMO – Sharada Gowda</b> <b>Telemedicine in Neonatology: Current Status and Future – Abeer Azzuqa</b> <b>Ultrasound-guided Placement of Peripheral Arterial Lines in NICU Patients Improves Placement Success Rates – Kyong-Soon Lee</b> <b>Use of Electronic Health Record to Optimize Neonatal Sepsis Score for Mortality Prediction – Ameena Husain</b>
5:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.	<b>Reception and Poster Session</b> <i>Sponsored by an Educational Grant from Reckitt   Mead Johnson</i>





## Tuesday, November 2

7:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Continental Breakfast Available</b>
7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	<b>Breakfast Breakout: CHNC Data Coordinators EPIC Users</b>
7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	<b>Breakfast Breakout: CHNC Data Coordinators Cerner Users</b>
7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	<b>Breakfast Breakout: TECaN &amp; Academic Leader Networking</b>
7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	<b>Breakfast Breakout: CHNC Compare Reports</b>
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	<b>Day Two Opening Remarks</b> Kris Reber
9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<b>The Audacity to Believe in a World without NEC</b> <i>Jennifer Canvasser</i>
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Perinatal Mood &amp; Anxiety Screening (PMAD) in the NICU and ED</b> <i>Sofia Perazzo, Lamia Soghier</i>
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Necrotizing Enterocolitis – A Genetic Disease? The SIGIRR Story</b> <i>Venkatesh Sampath</i>
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Does Initial Surgery for SIP Affect Outcomes?</b> <i>Amy Hair</i>
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.	<b>Networking Lunch</b>
1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Genomics Strategies to Improve Care in Level IV NICUs</b> <i>Luca Brunelli</i>
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>CHNC Focus Group Updates – Part I</b>
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Awards &amp; Recognition</b>
3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	<b>Group Photo</b>
3:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<b>CHNC Reception and Poster Session</b> <i>Sponsored by an Educational Grant from Medtronic</i>



## Wednesday, November 3

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

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8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Breakout: CHNC Data Coordinators VON & CPQCC**

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9:30 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. **Day Three Opening Remarks**  
Anthony Piazza, Kris Reber

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9:35 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. **CHNC Focus Group Updates – Part II**

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10:35 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Closing Remarks**

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11:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **WORKSHOP: Optimizing Continuity of Care for Complex Patients**  
*Amy Schlegel, Ruth Seabrook*

Although chronic, complex neonates cared for in Level IV NICUs typically comprise a heterogeneous patient population, patients, families and medical care teams benefit from continuity in medical management and communication. Frequent changes in clinical care providers (attending physicians, residents, APNs, etc) can be frustrating for families, as well as medical providers, particularly in the setting of complex and chronic medical needs. Consistent practice styles, algorithms, and multidisciplinary collaborations have been shown to lead to improved outcomes and decreased length of stay in some complex patient populations, notably neonates with severe BPD as well as some congenital conditions. Lengthy, complex hospital courses associated with rare genetic conditions, complicated fetal anomalies, and multisystem disease processes can be positively impacted by transdisciplinary models of continuity, collaboration and communication.

The goal of this workshop would be to provide a forum to discuss different models of providing care to chronic and complex patients in high-acuity children's hospital-based NICUs, and strategies for communication, medical goal setting, and managing expectations, for both the family and the team.

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11:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **WORKSHOP: Quality Improvement (QI) Basics 101: The Fundamentals for Change**  
*Melissa Duran, Roopali Bapat*

Quality improvement (QI) activities are an essential component of clinical practice. QI combines psychology, appreciation of systems, theory of knowledge and understanding variation. Proper execution of QI requires that data be collected and analyzed in the context of variation in order to determine if changes in a system are leading to improvement. The methods for collecting and analyzing data are different in QI (analytic studies) than they are in research activities (enumerative studies) with which healthcare providers are likely more familiar. The scientific and statistical approach to understanding variation has led to profound improvement in industry and must be applied rigorously to the healthcare environment if we are to experience the same gains from QI methodology.

This workshop is for those with no - to some familiarity of QI who want to learn how to use data to understand variation and accelerate their QI projects. The workshop uses didactics (50% of workshop time) to solidify understanding of the methods.

Content will include: differentiating QI vs. research data; what are common and special cause variations; what types of data can be used for a QI project; what measures are needed for a QI project; how to effectively sample and select sample size; how to plot data on run and control charts; and how to identify special causes on a control chart to assess for process improvement. Because of our experience in QI science and education, including teaching extensive QI courses at our own institutions and internationally, we will provide a highly educational and captivating workshop to everyone from nurses to trainees to senior physicians. Attendees will leave with an interest in pursuing their understanding of these concepts further and will be given a QI essentials toolkit that includes information about additional resources for further learning.



## Wednesday, November 3 *(continued)*

11:00 a.m. – 12:45.m.

**WORKSHOP: Cultivating Psychological Safety in the NICU: Activating Humanness to Advance Excellence**

*Beverly Brozanski, Joan Smith, Luke Viehl*

Think about your local NICU team and consider these questions:

1. Do people on the team sometimes reject others for being different?
2. Are you, or people on your team, able to bring up problems and tough issues?
3. If you make a mistake on your team, is it often held against you?
4. Is it difficult to ask other team members for help?
5. Is it safe to take risks?

As neonatal healthcare professionals, we must ensure the safety of our team and all infants under our care. Depending on your answers to these questions, it is quite possible that your team members may not always feel safe to speak up to prevent a medication error, to question a dosing regimen, to suggest alternative diagnoses or treatment modalities, or even to report missing or broken medical equipment. Unfortunately, the human instinct is to “fit in” which does not support the value of asking questions, seeking feedback, or suggesting innovation – all essential to psychological safety. Psychological safety is a critical factor to learning, creativity, innovation, and patient safety and neonatal leaders need to lay the groundwork and model the behaviors needed for its success.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide a leader toolkit to operationalize and promote a psychologically safe NICU environment.

Objectives:

1. Define the importance of psychological safety to patient and workforce safety and quality improvement
2. Identify leadership behaviors needed to develop a culture of psychological safety
3. Recognize the interactive skillset necessary to create and restore an environment where all voices are heard, and everyone is expected to participate
4. Determine strategies to reinforce psychological safety at all levels of the unit

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12:00 p.m.– 2:00 p.m.

**Networking Lunch**

*Boxed Lunches will be available to take to afternoon workshops.*

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1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**WORKSHOP: Building Bridges: From the Ground Up - Teambuilding in the NICU from the City of Bridges**

*Sheila Vasbinder*

The process to build a strong bridge, a physical structure designed to carry a pathway forward across an obstacle or to form a connection between two things, is multifaceted. I’ve long been fascinated by a process that begins at the ground level, many times below water, and rises to something structurally sound, aesthetically pleasing, and functional in facilitating the processes it was designed for. Building new bridges or reclaiming those that have a long and storied history can be paralleled to team building, rebuilding, and repairing as required over time.

A multidisciplinary team is beneficial in the care of the medically fragile and complex infants and their families in the NICU. Following a period of transition within all disciplines, an opportunity to refine and strengthen the team communication and overall dynamic was identified.

Utilizing challenging scenarios, the goal of this workshop will be to learn/refine strategies for effective and professional communication among team members within the multidisciplinary team with a specific focus on bedside nursing staff and the advanced practice providers. Bedside nurses and APPs work hand in hand around the clock and spend the most time at the bedside – they function as the foundational building blocks for the entire team and ensuring their solidity can provide maximum support for the larger team.

Objectives:

1. Define the value and importance of communication within a team
2. Identify communication styles and barriers within multidisciplinary teams
3. Provide strategies for increasing effective and professional collaboration and communication





## Wednesday, November 3 *(continued)*

1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **WORKSHOP: NICU Quality Improvement – Moving Beyond Clinical Guidelines**

*Roopali Bapat, Beverly Brozanski, Eugenia Pallotto, Anthony Piazza*

1. Have you ever struggled with implementing your QI idea?
2. Have you ever worked on an improvement project but realized that you have only pre and post intervention data?
3. Have you faced barriers in publishing/reporting your QI project?

If the answer to any or all of these questions is 'Yes', this workshop is for you.

Learn how to proactively set up your project to avoid common QI pitfalls and learn strategies to redirect the project for ongoing improvement and sustainability. In this workshop, we provide a framework to achieve meaningful outcomes in a QI project. In addition, we will outline important considerations that will lead to successful writing and publishing QI reports.

Objectives:

- A. Identify the must have QI components for successful projects
- B. Provide strategies to avoid and/or manage common QI project pitfalls
- C. Identify project components to turn interventions into measurable outcomes
- D. Determine the improvement elements needed for reporting QI work

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1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **WORKSHOP: Life-Limiting Diagnoses in Level IV NICUs: Communication w/ Families Facing Complex Decision-Making**

*Amy Schlegel*

While aggressive Level IV NICU care allows for survival and optimized outcomes for the vast majority of critically-ill neonates, some families experience a devastating reality that NICU diagnoses can become acutely life-limiting. These families are often asked to process grim prognostic information and make critical decisions in relatively close proximity. As physicians who care for complex neonates with multisystem diseases, genetic syndromes, and constellations of anomalies that are or may become acutely life-limiting, we recognize that provider communication skills can significantly impact the parental experience as well as a family's ability to partner with the transdisciplinary team to ensure that medical care of their child is in line with their values and goals.

Objectives: Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Apply a shared decision-making model to communication with and care of NICU families facing life-limiting neonatal diagnoses
2. Demonstrate effective communication strategies in a variety of challenging scenarios involving life-limiting diagnoses encountered in Level IV NICU
3. Discuss how to role-model and coach trainees in the application of shared decision-making and clear, compassionate communication with families facing life-limiting NICU diagnoses

Target Audience:

- Neonatal-perinatal physicians at the level of trainee through senior faculty, practicing in Level IV NICUs
- Advance practice providers, nurses, and transdisciplinary staff caring for complex NICU patients
- Clinician educators with interest in communication skill development



## Faculty

**Abeer Azzuqa, MD**

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

**Christopher Baker, MD**

Children's Hospital Colorado

**Malathi Balasundaram, MD**

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford

**Roopali Bapat, MD**

Nationwide Children's Hospital

**Beverly Brozanski, MD, CPHQ**

St. Louis Children's Hospital

**Luca Brunelli, MD, PHD**

University of Utah Health

**Jennifer Canvasser, MSW**

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**John Chuo, MD**

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

**Anna Dierenfeld, CPN-PC**

Children's Hospital Colorado

**Robert DiGeronimo, MD**

Seattle Children's Hospital

**Melissa Duran, MSN, CRNP, NNP-BC**

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**Jacquelyn Evans, MD**

The Children's Hospitals Neonatal Consortium

**Kate Gibbs, MD**

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

**Julie Gooding, MD**

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**Sharada Gowda, MD**

Texas Children's Hospital

**Theresa Grover, MD, MAS**

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**Amy Hair, MD**

Texas Children's Hospital

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Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

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**Jonathan Ida, MD**

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**Matthew Kielt, MD**

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**Megan Lagoski, MD**

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**Kyong-Soon Lee, MD, FRCP, M.Sc.**

The Hospital for Sick Children

**Angela Lewis, MD**

St. Louis Children's Hospital

**Winston Manimtim, MD**

The Children's Mercy Hospital

**Kari McCallie, MD**

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford

**Diana Montoya-Williams, MD**

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**Karna Murthy, MD, MSc**

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago



## Faculty *(continued)*

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Nationwide Children's Hospital

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Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital

**Sofia Perazzo, MD**

Children's National Hospital

**Anthony Piazza, MD**

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

**Rebekah Pok**

*Parent*

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