



Small Baby Care Specialist® Faculty

Christine Bixby - Benefits of Human Milk: Supporting Breastmilk & Breastfeeding



Dr. Christine Bixby is board certified in Pediatrics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. She completed both her Pediatric Residency and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. She attended medical school at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Bixby is a practicing Neonatologist in the NICU at CHOC Children's Hospital. She is an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant and the Lactation Medical Director at CHOC Children's Hospital where she focuses on breastmilk handling and breastfeeding support in the NICU. She is an advocate for breastfeeding in Orange County through the Orange County Perinatal Committee and the Orange County Breastfeeding Coalition. She has published and speaks frequently on best practices in breastmilk handling and optimizing breastmilk production and breastfeeding in the NICU.

John Cleary - Patent Ductus Arteriosus



Dr. John Patrick Cleary specializes in all aspects of neonatal intensive care at CHOC Children's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Dr. Cleary serves as the NICU Extracorporeal Life Support Program (ECLS) director at CHOC Children's and is Regional Director of Neonatology for the CHOC Pediatric Subspecialty Faculty. His research interests include team based care, mechanical ventilation, pulmonary hypertension and non-invasive monitoring. He trained in Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts and received his ECLS training and Neonatology Fellowship at U.C. San Diego. He is board certified in Pediatrics and Neonatal Perinatal Medicine. Dr. Cleary is a past president of the California Association of Neonatologists, provides direction as a consultant in redesign of California Children's Services and is an officer of the Children's Subspecialty Coalition. He is a recipient of David Wirtschafter award in quality improvement. He is co-creator of an international conference NeoHeart, cardiovascular management of the neonate and is a founding board member of the Neonatal Heart Society.

Letitia M. DeLaine – Pharmacotherapy



Dr. DeLaine graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2013 from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy. After graduation, she moved to San Antonio, Texas to begin a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio where after completing residency, she was hired as the first Emergency Medicine Pharmacist at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio. After four years, she found a new home at Holy Cross Health as the Women & Children's Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. Currently, she manages the clinical and pharmacy operations for the busiest birthing hospital and the largest Level III NICU in the state of Maryland where an average of ~26 babies – a kindergarten class – is born each day! She achieved Board Certified Pediatric Pharmacy Specialist certification in 2018 and works closely with the NICU team to develop policies, protocols, staff education and guidelines for entire NICU with a special focus on the Holy Cross Tiny Baby Unit.

Liz Drake – Continuity of Care; Thermoregulation; Positioning the Neonate for Best Outcomes; Brain and Neurosensory Development; Kangaroo Care



Liz Drake has been practicing in the NICU for 34 years. She received her Master's Degree, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist certification from UCLA. Quality Improvement, Neuro-protective Care and Family Partnered Care are her passions and expertise. She has a strong desire to teach the healthcare team about the uniqueness and language of the premature infant as every touch and experience can have impact. Through team building, education, academic thinking and direct patient care, Liz has a tireless focus on excellence. Her vision for the future is to create passion and desire in others to practice with intention, purpose and to practically integrate evidence into the care provided to infants and families. Liz is a driver for quality improvement initiatives and has been actively involved with National and State Quality Improvement Collaboratives.

Michael Dunn – Resuscitation, Stabilization and Golden Hour



Dr. Michael Dunn is a Senior Neonatologist working in the Women and Babies Program at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and an Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto. He was Chief of the Department of Newborn and Developmental Paediatrics at Sunnybrook from 2001 – 2009. He is an established researcher who has helped spearhead numerous large randomized trials examining the effect of neonatal therapies. He has a longstanding interest in respiratory management of preterm infants and performed a number of the early clinical trials to evaluate surfactant replacement therapy. Dr. Dunn is lead author on the publication of the Vermont Oxford Network trial assessing three different approaches to initial respiratory management of preterm infants and has recently published review articles on non-invasive high-frequency ventilation and non-invasive NAVA. He has been involved in the activities of several collaborative neonatal networks including the Canadian Neonatal Network



(CNN) and Vermont Oxford Network (VON). Dr. Dunn was Clinical Leader for the “Resuscitation and Stabilization” group of VON Neonatal Quality Improvement Collaborative in 2009 and is currently serving as a Clinical Expert for a group focusing on improving outcomes for Micropremature infants (those born at less than 26 weeks’ gestation). Dr. Dunn serves or has served on several local, national and international bodies committed to improving the quality of neonatal-perinatal care. He is a member of the Maternal and Perinatal Death Review Committee to the Chief Coroner for the Province of Ontario. He is a Past-President of the Neonatal-Perinatal Section of the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) and is a member of the Consensus Committee to Establish Recommended Standards for Newborn ICU Design. He is committed to the provision of quality care to NICU patients and their families and believes that we as health care providers need to do everything in our power to give our newest citizens the best possible start in life.

Jay Goldsmith - Respiratory Management: Prevention of Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia; Prevention of Retinopathy of Prematurity



Dr. Goldsmith graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and did his residency in pediatrics at the University of California at San Francisco and the Northern California Children’s Hospital. Following a fellowship in Neonatology at the Phoenix Hospital Associated Pediatrics Program, he became a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics and Board Certified in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. He started practice at the Ochsner Clinic and Foundation Hospital in New Orleans where he served as the chairman of the Department of Pediatrics for twenty-two years. He has been actively involved in perinatal education and has special interests in the areas of neonatal resuscitation, ventilation of newborns, performance improvement and neonatal ethics. As a member and then co-chairman of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) Steering Committee (1998-2009), he helped write and publish the 4th and 5th editions of the NRP Textbooks. He now continues as a United States representative to the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR). He played a major role in the development of a high fidelity neonatal mannequin (SimNew[®]) to teach neonatal resuscitation by simulation. As consultant and faculty for the *Vermont Oxford Network (VON)* Quality Improvement Collaboratives, he has focused on improving respiratory care outcomes. He is the originator of the “Oxygen With Love” (OWL) Program which has been successful in reducing the incidence of retinopathy of prematurity in many hospitals. Dr. Goldsmith’s publications include over 100 scientific articles, 25 book chapters and 6 editions of the textbook *Assisted Ventilation of the Neonate*. He was the 2012 recipient of the Southern Society of Pediatrics Educator of the Year Award and in 2014 was appointed to the AAP Committee on the Fetus and Newborn (COFN). Dr. Goldsmith has over 40 years of clinical experience in neonatology. He spent 30 years with the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans as an active clinician and in 2012 he joined the faculty as a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Tulane University. In 2013, he was named the section chief and Elsie Schaefer Chair in the Section of Neonatology at Tulane. Presently he continues to actively practice as a full professor and clinical neonatologist at Tulane.

Jae Kim – Necrotizing Enterocolitis Prevention



Dr. Jae Kim is the Division Director of Neonatology in the Perinatal Institute at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. His special areas of clinical and research interests include neonatal nutrition, neonatal bowel injury, bedside ultrasound and resuscitation. He is a co-founder of the San Diego Mothers’ Milk Bank and the Director of an innovative, nationally recognized multidisciplinary program to advance premature infant nutrition called SPIN (Supporting Premature Infant Nutrition). He is the co-author of the book, *Best Medicine: Human Milk in the NICU*. He is an active Council member of the AAP Committee on Nutrition.

Jonathan Klein – Interview: Experience with active management of neonates born 22-24 weeks gestation



Dr. Jonathan Klein completed his undergraduate education at Johns Hopkins University Medical School, attended Medical College of Virginia, and completed Pediatric Residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His Neonatology Fellowship was at the New England Medical Center. He currently is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Iowa, since 1990 and Dr. Klein is the Medical Director University of Iowa Stead Family NICU since 2005. Dr. Klein and the team at University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital NICU have published and shared their experience and outcomes in the active management of neonates born 22-24 weeks gestation.

Linda, Lefrak – Infection Prevention: Risks & Outcomes; Infection Prevention: Antibiotic Stewardship



Linda Lefrak is a Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist. Her education included an undergraduate degree from Indiana University in nursing. In the early 70’s she completed one of the first Neonatal Nurse Practitioner programs in the country at the University of Arizona. In 1984 she completed a Clinical Nurse Specialist graduate program at the University of California in San Francisco. She has worked at five children’s hospitals during her forty-eight years of practice and participated in state and national neonatal collaboratives. Her interests include neonatal nutrition, patient safety, infection risk reduction, neonatal abstinence syndrome, pain management, and ethics. She lives in Oakland, California, and has three children and two grandchildren.



Sue Ludwig – Intentional Caregiving in the NICU



Sue Ludwig is the President and Founder of the National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT) where she uses a unique blend of clinical expertise, innovation, and leadership skills to support neonatal OTs, PTs and SLPs as they advance this specialized field on a global level. She is also the Co-Founder of Infant-Driven Feeding® and co-author of the Infant-Driven Feeding Scales. Sue is a certified neonatal therapist and practiced for over 20 years at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. She received the Laura Edmunds Lectureship Award from UMass Memorial Medical Center and was awarded the *Individual Contribution to Maternal & Child Health* by the National Perinatal Association. She is the media expert in neonatal therapy for the American Occupational Therapy Association. Sue is a sought-after speaker, consultant, writer and educator. She is driven to improve the culture of healthcare, armed with decades of experience speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Carolyn Lund – Skin Care for ELBW Infants



Carolyn Lund has been a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the NICU at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland for over 30 years, and is also an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of California, San Francisco. She has contributed to knowledge of neonatal skin care through original research in the areas of skin maturation, skin integrity and adhesive damage, and bathing. Under her leadership, the first evidence-based Neonatal Skin Care Guideline was developed and evaluated in 51 nurseries in the US in 2001. She then served as team leader on the guideline revisions in 2007 and 2013, and is currently working on the 4th revision due in 2018. In addition to neonatal skin care, Carolyn has lectured extensively on surgical care and vascular access for neonates.

Alex Luton - Maternal Role Attainment; Infection Prevention: Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infection



Alexandra Luton is a Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) from Houston, TX. Alex received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Microbiology from Texas A&M in 2005, followed in 2007 by her BSN from UT Health Science Center in Houston. After almost five years of NICU nursing practice, Alex earned her Master of Nursing degree from the University of Washington as a Neonatal CNS and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner in 2012. Alex has practiced as a Neonatal CNS since that time, gradually discovering distinct passions for education, quality improvement and building teams.

Ginny McGill – Effects of Stress & Pain on the Developing Brain



Ginny is a physical therapist with a doctorate from Creighton University in Omaha who has practiced in the neonatal setting for 17 years. She has certifications in neonatal therapy, massage, skin and lymphedema care and takes a special interest in how nurturing engagement promotes infant development. Ginny is the lead neonatal therapist at the Children's Hospital at Providence and lives in Alaska where she enjoys exploring the outdoors with her family.

Karin Mitchell - Pre-Feeding Interventions: Set up for Success; Non-Pharmacological Pain & Stress; Kangaroo Care



Karin Mitchell, MA, CCC-SLP, CNT, CLE is a highly respected Speech Language Pathologist specializing in the care and treatment of pediatric feeding and swallowing, developmental care of the medically fragile infant and child, and pediatric traumatic brain injury. Her love of teaching and helping others drives her to create and deliver fun and empowering continuing education courses that focus on building the participant's clinical analysis and therapeutic effectiveness. Expertise includes developmental care in the NICU, developmentally appropriate feeding, pediatric feeding and swallowing analysis and treatment, enhancing decision making and clinical analysis, breast feeding the medically fragile infant and child, and developmental milestones supporting feeding skill acquisition. Karin serves as a lead therapist for the NICU and Feeding Teams at CHOC Children's Hospital in Orange, CA. With a clinical practice formed by a strong theory base in NDT and SI therapies, Karin is also NOMAS trained and holds a specialty certification in VitalStim. She is also a certified lactation educator (CLE). A dedicated leader, Karin devotes much of her time to the support and development of clinicians, serving as a mentor committed to building therapist's skills in clinical analysis and therapeutic effectiveness with medically fragile patients. She is a strong advocate for her patients and their families and speaks at local associations, community centers, local universities, and school districts to support medically fragile infants and children.

Gira Morchi – Transcatheter PDA Closure



Dr. Morchi attended medical school at Dartmouth Medical School, completed residency training in pediatrics at Brown University School of Medicine, and conducted her pediatric cardiology and interventional fellowship in Denver, Colorado at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. With board certification in pediatrics and pediatric cardiology, Dr. Morchi specializes in interventional cardiology, caring for the most critical and complex cardiac patients in our cardiac cath lab. Dr. Morchi also holds leadership positions with CHOC serving as the Division Chief & Section Chair for Pediatric Cardiology.



Mindy Morris - Small Baby Outcomes; Communication/Teamwork; Nutritional Management: Prevention of Growth Failure; Apnea of Prematurity; Neurodevelopmental Management: Risks & Outcomes; Neurodevelopmental Management: Neuroprotection & Injury Prevention



Mindy is a doctoral prepared neonatal clinician with an aptitude for application of evidence into practice. She has experienced and mastered many roles working in the NICU for over 30 years. She has first-authored two papers demonstrating the application of evidence into practice with positive clinical outcomes while supporting a team-based approach to care. Her foundational core is an enthusiasm for quality and improving the patient, family, and team experience in the NICU. She is a faculty member for the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) Quality Improvement Collaborative. Care of the Extremely Low Birth Weight Infant is Mindy's ardent focus. Her respect for the resiliency of the E LBW infant inspires her to share her extensive knowledge and expertise by designing programs and tools to improve the multidisciplinary team's model of care for this vulnerable population.

Amy Nyberg – Family Partnered Care



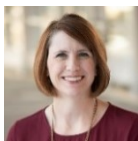
Amy Nyberg is the parent advisor and March of Dimes NICU Family Support Program Coordinator at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI. She started her work in quality improvement after her 2 oldest boys were born 16 weeks early at 24 weeks Gestation and spent 120 days in the NICU in 1999. She is a Parent Advisor Faculty member for the Vermont Oxford Quality Improvement Collaborative.

Gina O'Toole - Nutritional Management: Prevention of Growth Failure



Gina O'Toole is a Clinical/Neonatal Dietitian at CHOC Children's Hospital in Orange, California. She received her B.S. from Seattle Pacific University in Exercise Science and Physical Education and went on to receive her Master's in Public Health and Nutrition from Loma Linda University. She completed her internship at Loma Linda University Medical Center and CHOC Children's Hospital. After obtaining her RD, Gina accepted a position as a Dietitian in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She has continued her profession in the NICU, focusing her efforts on the care of the premature infant, the surgical neonate and the importance of breast milk for the high-risk infant. Gina has developed care and nutritional guidelines for the infant with short bowel syndrome and has started a multi-disciplinary team focused on the care of short bowel patients. She is involved in the Vermont Oxford Network and is actively involved in quality improvement in the NICU. At CHOC Children's, she also acts as a preceptor for the RD residency program and RD interns as well as provides education to the medical and nursing residents. Gina currently resides in Huntington Beach with her husband Kevin and daughters Lola (4) and Brooklyn (2), where they love to garden, hike and go to the beach.

Jennifer Rivera – Infection Risks, Outcomes, & Prevention



With 25 years in clinical practice, Jennifer Rivera, MSN, APRN, ACCNS-N, RNC-NIC has been a leader in infection prevention initiatives and in cross-functional collaboration to achieve optimal patient outcomes. In her current role as the Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist at Children's Minnesota, Ms. Rivera leverages her passion for infection prevention as the chair of the Vascular Access Council and clinical expert to the CLABSI HAC Team, Safety Action Team, and the Prevent Infection Team (PIT).

Antoine Soliman - Respiratory Management: Mechanical Ventilatory Modalities



Dr. Antoine Soliman is a neonatologist who is passionate about the care of extremely low birth weight premature infants. He received his medical degree from Penn State University College of Medicine, and his residency and fellowship training at University of California Los Angeles/Cedars Sinai Medical Center. He is currently the Medical Director of Neonatal Intensive Care at Miller Children's and Women's Hospital in Long Beach, California. His longstanding interests for innovative delivery models in medicine fueled the drive to search for better ways to care for the smallest and sickest infants in the nursery. Working alongside other progressive leaders in Orange County, Dr Soliman helped develop The Small Baby Unit, an exciting recognized work that helped improve the outcomes of these fragile newborns. Believing that this unique approach is promising, he continued to build on the model of team based care with evidence driven guidelines in a dedicated environment, at a large tertiary children's hospital NICU. In addition to quality improvement, as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at University of California Irvine, he serves as a mentor and educator of trainee physicians. He is actively involved in scientific investigative projects and is also a member of several local and national collaboratives dedicated to patient safety and quality improvement in neonatal perinatal medicine.



Anita Shah – Introduction to Neonatal Ethics



Dr. Anita Shah is board certified in Pediatrics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. As an undergraduate she double majored in Religion/ Ethics and Biology at USC, she then attended medical school at University of California, San Francisco. She completed her Masters in Public Health and the Harvard School of Public health, before returning to California to start her Residency in Pediatrics at Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The remainder of her residency was completed at Boston Children's Hospital. She then went on to fellowship at Seattle Children's Hospital/ University of Washington where she re-kindled her passion for ethics with further training. Dr. Shah is a practicing Neonatologist with CHOC Children's Hospital where she focuses on ethics and palliative care. She is committed to the continued study of compassionate interactions with families going through the hardest of times with their babies in the NICU.

Lavonne Sheng - Antenatal Care



Dr. Lavonne Sheng is a neonatologist at CHOC Children's Hospital as well as St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton, CA. She attended medical school at the University of California, Irvine and completed both pediatric residency and neonatal-perinatal medicine fellowship training at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. She is currently the Associate Medical Director of the NICU and Chair of the Department of Women and Children at St. Jude Medical Center. Dr. Sheng enjoys the multidisciplinary teamwork in the NICU and has led and actively participated in many quality improvement efforts such as antibiotic stewardship and CLABSI prevention. Her areas of interest include infection prevention and antibiotic stewardship in the NICU.

Robert Ursprung - Quality & Process Improvement



Dr. Ursprung received his medical degree & pediatric training from the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School. His neonatology training occurred in the division of Newborn Medicine at Harvard Medical School/Children's Hospital Boston, where he also completed a two-year NIH-funded clinical research fellowship and a master's degree in Medical Science from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Ursprung has a long track record in Quality and Safety work in Neonatology. He currently is the director of High Reliability Organization & Patient Safety for Mednax Women and Children's Services. He also serves on the Vermont Oxford Network's Database Advisory Committee.

Rebecca Vartanian – Retinopathy of Prematurity



Dr. Rebecca Vartanian received her medical degree from Wayne State University Medical School in Detroit, Michigan. She is currently a neonatologist in the Brandon NICU at Michigan Medicine, where she completed her residency and fellowship training. Her non-patient care time is divided amongst her roles as the Medical Director of Respiratory Care for Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voightlander Women's Hospital, quality improvement projects and clinical research. Her quality improvement efforts have included the reduction of ROP through optimal oxygen and alarm management and improving outcomes of extremely premature infants. She is fortunate to participate in several local and national quality improvement collaboratives and enjoys her opportunity to both teach and mentor trainees in QI methodology.