Welcome to the fifth edition of the GCNC Neuroprotective Newsletter for 2017. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please contact: Nadine.griffiths@health.nsw.gov.au

Use of scent in the NICU

Why use scent?
Mothers are able to distinguish the odor of their own newborn baby from that of other newborns & infants are responsive to maternal odors beginning shortly after birth. Unpleasant or noxious odors may result in detrimental responses such as diminished respiratory rate, periodic apnea and increased heart rate.

Who benefits?
Studies have shown that biologically meaningful odors such as amniotic fluid, colostrum and breast milk are soothing to infants particularly when obtained from the infant's own mother. Introducing mother's scent may prove beneficial to preterm as well as term infants in the NICU environment by eliciting a suckling reflex and reducing crying.

Is there a risk of infection?
There is no evidence to suggest this

Precautions & recommendations:
- Follow SIDS guidelines
- Ensure the scent pad is not too wet
- Place near the infants face & replace every 4 hours

Unpacking the burden of care for infants in the NICU

The paper by D’Agata et al proposes admission to an NICU should be considered an adverse childhood event recommending the following components are brought to the forefront of care in the NICU:
- Recognizing medical trauma
- Supporting the primary infant parent relationship
- Measuring cumulative stress
- Learning from other research

They suggest understanding infant behavior (as taught in FINE & NIDCAP training) is essential education for all staff in the NICU setting.


Developmental focus

Name the Newsletter Competition!!
We have a winner for our name the newsletter competition – thank you to Louise Willson CNS who helped inspire our change in name to:

Neuroprotective News

Upcoming Neurodevelopmental Education Opportunities

Interested in learning more about neurodevelopmental care?

FINE Level I Training:
SCHN staff: 29th & 30th May
SCHN Staff: 27th & 28th November

External staff: 24th & 25th August
External staff: 6th & 7th November

Contact: nadine.griffiths@health.nsw.gov.au