

NEW ALLIANCE TO PROMOTE NEONATAL HEALTH GLOBALLY

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What do ANN, AWHONN, C4HN, COINN, and NANN have in common? NEWBORNS AND THEIR FAMILIES! Nursing leaders from five prominent organizations have formed a new coalition to advocate for improved global care for infants and families, the new Alliance for Global Neonatal Nursing (ALIGNN). This alliance brings together the Academy of Neonatal Nursing (ANN); the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), Caring for Hawai'i Neonates (C4HN), the Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN), and the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) to provide a unifying voice for neonatal nursing.

Nearly one in ten American infants, and one million globally are born prematurely each year. Prematurity often results in a neonatal intensive care stay. An even greater number are born with congenital anomalies requiring early major surgery. According to national estimates, the U.S. spends 17.8% of the Gross Domestic Product on Health Care, a small percentage goes to neonatal care, and yet infant mortality rates remain high.

"Improving the health of neonates (the first 28 days of life) is the key to the future," said Leilani Kahoano spokesperson from ALIGNN. "Investments in the health of newborns will pay off for a lifetime."

ALIGNN is focused on providing education for nurses and advocacy to improve care for neonates. The Alliance will fill gaps in nursing education around neonatal care, act as a rapid response team for advocacy issues, and build on the combined strengths of each organization: disseminating information, education, and products.

This inaugural alliance is an historic moment for neonatal nurses globally.

Founding member organizations and their representatives:

Academy of Neonatal Nurses (ANN), Debbie Fraser, Executive Director
Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), Emily Drake, President
Caring for Hawai'i Neonates (C4HN), Leilani Kahoano, Founder/President, Pam Almeida, Incoming President, Stephanie Hoe, Secretary
Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN), Carole Kenner, Founder/President, Karen Walker, Vice President
National Association of Neonatal Nurse (NANN), Lori Brittingham, President, Regina Grazel, Past President, Elizabeth Sharpe, Director

For further information contact: alignn2017@gmail.com