Celebrate!
ACNN Turns 30

It all began 30 years ago in October 1984. This year, the Association of Child Neurology Nurses will celebrate 30 years. ACNN is an international nonprofit organization of nurses and other health care professionals who care for children with neurological conditions. Our members work in hospitals, private practice, clinics and academic facilities and practice in a variety of roles. ACNN’s mission is to promote excellence in child neurology nursing practice through the development and support of nurses caring for children with neurological conditions. We aim to advance standards of care, provide educational opportunities, foster research and facilitate regional and international multidisciplinary collaborations. Our members span the globe. Currently we have members in the United States, Canada, Australia and Korea.

Join in the celebration. Stay tuned for more news on upcoming celebrations to be held at the annual conference in October 2014. Happy Birthday ACNN! Watch the ACNN for more information.
Happy Spring!

It’s nice to finally have winter over and look forward to warmer weather.

We have been working with the Child Neurology Society who has taken over our management. You will continue to see many changes in the coming months. The renewal process has been converted over to be in line with when CNS members renew. Renewal packets were sent out so if you did not receive one please contact us so we can send one to you. The website continues to be upgraded. Please let us know what you think. I appreciate everyone’s patience as we go through this process and work out the kinks. You now access our website through a link on the CNS website front page.

We are in need of more committee members to help with the programs we do throughout the year. The job descriptions were included in the renewal packet and are also on the website. Please contact any of the Board members if you have any questions.

I encourage everyone to take an active role in our organization. Think about submitting an article for Current’s Let us know what you are doing in your practice and send us the information if you publish an article elsewhere. We also have some funding for small research projects that you may be thinking about doing. Call or e-mail us if you have an idea you would like to bounce off one of us. The Board of Directors and the committees are here to help you succeed.

I wish you a healthy and successful 2014 as you continue working with children and families living with neurologic disorders and helping them improve their lives.

Sincerely,

Kathy O’Hara
ACNN President

kohara@mcvh-vcu.edu
The 2014 Neuroscience Nursing Conference was held at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio on March 14, 2014. This conference was designated as an ACNN regional meeting. The program included a variety of topics in areas of neurology and neurosurgery. Our keynote speaker was Linda Littlejohns. She was happy to travel from sunny California to cold and snowy Ohio to present on Correlative Brain Anatomy in the morning. In the afternoon she presented an inspirational talk on Measuring Success in the Caring Professions. If you have not heard Linda speak, you should take the opportunity, she is well versed in the areas of neurology and the nursing profession.

Other presentations came from a variety of speakers in the neuroscience areas. Presentations were given from Neuroradiology – Imaging and Pediatric Epilepsy, Neurosurgery – Advances in the Management of Hydrocephalus, Pharmacology – Something Old, Something New: Novel Drug Therapies for Epilepsy, Neurology – Dizziness, Fainting and Postural Tachycardia Syndrome and Epilepsy – Psychogenic Non-Epileptic Seizures. As you can tell a variety of areas were covered.

We are looking forward to our next meeting in 2016. We have worked closely with our hospital education team to organize this meeting. Maybe you can work with your hospital to have your own regional conference.

Start-up funds available from ACNN to organize your own regional meeting. Contact a board member for more information.

The Columbus Planning Team
Julie Sprague-McRae, Dr. Ruth Rosenblum, and Dr. Leslie Morrison have been working on the 2nd edition of the Child Neurology Encounter Guides and Child Neurology Encounter Pocket Guides. Over 35 + ACNN nursing and CNS content experts have reviewed the guides. The Child Neurology Encounter Guides and Child Neurology Encounter Pocket Guides will be published in time for the Fall CNS/ACNN meeting in Columbus, Ohio and be available for purchase at the ACNN booth. This updated project will help celebrate the 30th anniversary of ACNN, similar to the 2009 launch honoring the 25th ACNN anniversary.

Of special note, on behalf of ACNN, Julie Sprague-McRae, Dr. Ruth Rosenblum, and Dr. Leslie Morrison have been accepted to present a breakfast seminar on the CNS side of the conference program similar to our invitation in 2008 in Santa Cara, CA. They will present the Child Neurology Encounter Guide Project in the context of this title: "Collaboration, Technology and Innovation in the Age of Health Care Reform: The Updated Child Neurology Encounter Guides."

On another note, Julie Sprague McRae on 3/20/14, and 3/23/14 presented on behalf of ACNN two presentations at the California Association of Nurse Practitioner’s conference in Newport Beach, California. One was entitled “Epilepsy, How to Evaluate, Educate and Medicate and the other was on First Seizure Evaluation and Management.” If anyone is interested in replicating this presentation, please let Julie know and she will share her presentation. She can be contacted at mcraehome@gmail.com.
A new online program at www.emucaring.org consisting of seven modules addressing topics such as Seizure Observation, Environment and Activity, Managing Seizures and Comorbidities, and Preparing for Transition to Outpatient Care.

CME and CEU credits are available
For ease of learning, each module can be completed independently.

The American Epilepsy Society (AES) and the National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) are pleased to announce a free online continuing medical education series “Safety in the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit.” This specially structured learning presentation is intended to educate healthcare providers on the best ways to create a culture of safety in the epilepsy unit. Meant for all members of the epilepsy team, including physicians, nurses, EEG technologists, pharmacists, social workers, and other staff in the unit, this program presents best practices as identified by a group of national experts in epilepsy.

This tool can be used for continuing in-service education and as a training tool for new members of the team. At present, the program has been approved for physicians, nurses and EEG technologists to receive up to a maximum of 3.5 continuing education credits by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), EduPro Resources LLC (EDUPRO), and ASET – The Neurodiagnostic Society.
The Claire Chee Award for Excellence in Child Neurology Nursing was established by the Association of Child Neurology Nurses in the year 2000. This award, given annually, recognizes and honors the nurse who, as a member of the ACNN, has rendered distinguished service within the profession of child neurology nursing. The recipient is one who demonstrates, through strength of character and competence, a commitment to the care of children and their families with neurological disorders. She/he is acknowledged by her/his peers as one who renders qualities of compassion, resourcefulness, leadership, knowledge, communication, and inspiration.

Candidates for the Award for Excellence may be submitted by any member of the Association of Child Neurology Nurses or the Child Neurology Society to the Award Committee. The ACNN Award Committee will evaluate the nominations and determine the most deserving candidate for the year. The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Child Neurology Nurses. The nomination form is available on the ACNN web site. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, June 15, 2014.

For any questions, contact:

Amy Vierhile, RN, MS, C-PNP at amy_vierhile@urmc.rochester.edu

or

call Amy at (585) 275-4762.
Comparing patient and parent recall of 90-day and 30-day migraine disability using elements of the Ped MIDAS and an internet headache diary.

AIM:
The aim of this article is to compare 90-day and 30-day recall of Pediatric Migraine Disability Assessment (PedMIDAS) elements and headache frequency against daily entries from an Internet headache diary among pediatric patients and their parents.

METHODS:
In a prospective cohort study, patients aged 10-18 years with episodic migraine or probable migraine completed a 90-day Internet-based headache diary that incorporated PedMIDAS questions. Following the 90-day diary period, patients and parents completed modified PedMIDAS instruments to assess 90-day and 30-day recall. Intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) were calculated to measure recall reliability. The Kruskal-Wallis and Jonckheere-Terpstra tests were used to explore recall accuracy as it relates to each participant’s self-reported confidence in recall and to patient age.

RESULTS:
Fifty-two subjects completed 90 consecutive diary entries. Comparing 30-day to 90-day recall of PedMIDAS elements, ICC scores improved by 26.2% (patients) and 17.5% (parents). Patients had better recall than their parents for all study measures. Self-reported confidence in recall and patient age had limited and inconsistent effects on recall accuracy.

CONCLUSION:
The optimal recall interval to assess migraine disability must balance recall accuracy with generalizability across a range of headache frequencies. When compared to daily diary entries, recall accuracy of PedMIDAS elements and headache frequency improves at 30 days compared to 90 days. Parent report of migraine disability should not be used as a replacement for patient report.
Variables associated with emergency department and/or unplanned hospital utilization for children with epilepsy
Anup Patel
Epilepsy and Behavior
31(2014)  172-175

In the United States, approximately one million people are evaluated annually in an emergency department (ED) for the diagnosis of a seizure or epilepsy. The highest percentages of these patients are less than five years of age. No studies have been performed on assessing potential variables associated with recurrent ED visits and/or unplanned hospitalizations for children with epilepsy. Institutional review board approval from Nationwide Children's Hospital was obtained prior to study initiation. An accountable care organization (ACO), Partner for Kids (PFK), database was searched for patients with the highest and the lowest number of ED visits and/or unplanned hospitalizations from 2007 through 2011 using ICD-9 codes of 345.xx and 780.39. The patients were stratified into a high and a low utilizer group. The total number of visits and their associated healthcare costs were noted for each patient. In total, 120 patients were included for review. Information on the total number of no-shows to outpatient neurology clinic visits and telephone calls to neurology triage nursing was noted. A chart review was performed by a pediatric epileptologist to determine if each individual patient was an appropriate candidate for an emergency seizure treatment. The dose of emergency seizure medication was cross-checked to the patient’s actual dose during the time of ED or hospital presentation to determine if the dose given was high, low, or accurate based on dosing recommendations. Multivariable logistic regression was used to test the effects of factors. When controlling for other factors, patients who were given an incorrect or no emergency seizure dosing had a high probability of having multiple ED visits/unplanned hospitalizations compared with patients who were given correct dosing (odds ratio=11.28, 95% CI of odds ratio=(2.42, 52.63), p value<0.01 (p=0.0021)). Using a similar model, patients who experienced a higher number of no-shows to clinic visits had a higher probability of having multiple ED visits/unplanned hospitalizations (odds ratio=5.73 per 1 more number of no-show, 95% CI of odds ratio=(1.78, 18.44), p value<0.01 (p=0.0034)). Future studies are planned to target these risk factors with the goal of decreased ED and/or hospital utilization for children with epilepsy.
Pssst! Reset Your Password
Stay Informed, Stay In Touch

If you have not checked out the new ACNN website, please visit www.childneurologysociety.org. Click on the ACNN logo and follow the instructions. ACNN members must reset their password in order to access the members only section. This will enable you to submit abstracts for presentations and posters at the annual conference. The reset is a one time action.
Michael J. Bresnan
Child Neurology Course

Submitted by Carole Atkinson, MS, PNP-BC, CNRN

The Boston Children’s Hospital, Department of Neurology’s, Michael J. Bresnan Child Neurology Course will be held in Boston Massachusetts from September 15-19, 2014. September 18 and 19 will have specific neurology nursing focused content with nursing contact hours. CME is awarded for the remainder of the course. The brochure will be available in the spring. In the interim, please email carole.atkinson@childrens.harvard.edu or lisa.duffy@childrens.harvard.edu if you have any questions.
Keeping Connected
Upcoming Meetings

15th Annual Meeting of the Infantile Seizure Society 2014
June 23 - June 27, 2014
Nevsehir, Turkey

13th International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases 2014
July 5 - July 10, 2014
Nice, France

Australia and New Zealand Child Neurology Society 3rd Annual Scientific Meeting
July 25 - July 27, 2014
Adelaide, Australia

Michael J. Bresnan Child Neurology Course
September 15 - September 19, 2014
Boston, MA, United States

Child Neurology Society Annual Meeting
October 22 - October 25, 2014
Columbus, OH, United States
Calling all ACNN Members
Call for Newsletter Submissions

Thank you to all ACNN members who made a submission to the Summer Edition of ACNN Currents. As members of ACNN, it is important for us to communicate with our peers. This is one of the benefits and obligations of membership. Let us know about your practice, innovation, an interesting case study, a mentor who has influenced you, your research, your publications, presentations, or a clinical practice change. Please send all submissions to maria.zak@sickkids.ca. The submission deadline for the Summer edition of ACNN Currents is June 15, 2014.