

Section Strategic Grants

Greetings of the season! December finds us almost universally in a season of giving, so it is fitting to be writing about the SONPM Strategic Grant program. We are happy to be providing support to 4 new projects that I anticipate will give back to us all in the neonatology community.

Our current strategic plan—last refreshed in 2016-2017—can be found on the Section website here: https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/2016-2017_SONPM_Strategic_Plan.pdf. The domains of our 2016-2017 Strategic Plan include Education, Member Value, Quality, Advocacy, Health of the Subspecialty and Health of the Section.

Three years ago, in 2017-2018, proposals for member-initiated projects were solicited, and scoring was based on innovation, priority, feasibility, scalability, sustainability, testability and stewardship of Section resources. Projects were selected from a collection of excellent proposals. The following three were supported:

1. The ONTPD (Organization of Neonatal Training Program Directors) National Neonatology Curriculum Project proposed to create **a high-quality, peer-reviewed, standardized physiology curriculum** based on the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) Content Outline for Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine for neonatology trainees that aligns with adult learning theory to improve knowledge retention and application. The grant helped to fund innovative research on three projects. Each of the first two projects resulted in a publication, and the third project, a randomized controlled trial of "flipped classroom" teaching vs. traditional teaching of neonatal fellows, produced 7 abstracts that were accepted for presentation at the 2020 Pediatric Academic Societies meeting.
2. **Teaching the Principles and Utilization of Evidence-Based Medicine in Neonatology**, from Dr. Roger Soll and Colleen Ovelman at Cochrane Neonatal, proposed to engage young doctors by creating a series of webinars that teach the principles of evidence-based medicine, supplemented by case studies of how to use such evidence to guide practice. Eight webinars were produced over the 2 year period from January 2019 to December 2020 that have incorporated principles of the flipped classroom methodology studied by ONTPD in the first strategic grant.
3. **A Multimodal Educational Intervention (MEI) to Improve Follow-up at Neonatal High-Risk Clinic and Parental empowerment to Identify Developmental Delay in the NICU Graduates** proposed to create a series of simple cartoon videos and comics in English and Spanish to improve health literacy about developmental milestones through 6 months of age, with a goal of elevating attendance rates in followup clinic and enhancing recall compared to conventional educational formats. We granted an extension of this grant for one year and hope to report results next year.

We just completed the review process for another round of these grants. This second round prioritized proposals that focus on the following issues:

- a. Implicit bias, systemic racism, social and health care disparities.

- b. Global health (with sustainability clearly addressed)
- c. Innovative educational endeavors. for the individual, to strengthen performance of the neonatal care team, or to accelerate acquisition or dissemination of new evidence.

Many excellent proposals were put forward and the scoring rubric included the same seven criteria as in 2017. I want to thank all applicants for the thoughtfulness that went into every one of these competitive proposals. It is highly valued for members to be able to engage with the section in work about which they feel personally passionate, and we are very happy that there has been such interest in this program.

I am pleased to announce the awardees for the 2021 SONPM Strategic Grants:

1. Kerri Machut (Lurie Children's Hospital): **Women in Neonatology Equity Initiative (WiNei) to Achieve Gender Equity in Neonatology Careers**
2. Meg Parker (Boston Medical Center): **Development and Dissemination of Multi-Cultural and Bi-Lingual Family Education Videos on AAP Recommended Discharge Practices for High-Risk Infants**
3. Stephanie Mavis (National Neonatology Curriculum Committee-Junior Council): **Implicit Bias and Health Disparities Education in the NICU: A National, Multi-Perspective Needs Assessment and Curriculum Development**
4. Dean Hubbard (MidCAN)/Ashley Lucke & Ali Slone (TECAN): **SoNPM Advocacy Curriculum for Neonatologists**

We look forward to seeing these projects unfold. We expect that each will yield results of interest to us all, and tools that are scalable to many of our own personal settings.

Please join me in congratulating our awardees, your fellow Section members.

I want to close in noting what a remarkable gift it is to see all the social media photos of colleagues receiving their COVID-19 vaccines, sharing the historical excitement of the potential for ending this pandemic, telling their personal stories of sore arms, transient mild symptoms—such an incredible strength in our virtual community!

Take care and be well,
Lily

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