



# Kentucky Perinatal Association



KPA Newsletter Summer 2006

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## KPA Request Continuing Funding for HPEP

Recently this year, The Kentucky Perinatal Association (KPA) requested a \$25,000 March of Dimes grant to fund the continuation of a web-based educational program on prematurity for healthcare professionals.

In October 2004, the March of Dimes awarded KPA a \$25,000 grant to implement the Health Professionals Education on Prematurity (HPEP) a web-based educational program on prematurity for healthcare professionals designed to serve as a foundation for Kentucky's efforts towards prematurity prevention.

For the past year, KPA implemented this innovative program that provided education on the latest information in prematurity prevention for healthcare providers, and served as a way to assess and collect data on the current knowledge and practice of prematurity prevention among healthcare providers in Kentucky. The program is aimed at providers from multiple disciplines (physicians, nurses, mid-level practitioners, nutritionists, dentists, public health, etc.) and brings them the most up-to-date knowledge of evidence-based approaches and best practice for prematurity prevention. The curriculum is based on Kentucky's November 04 Prematurity Summit, current literature, March of Dimes materials, and best practice/standards of care. The web-based format provides an update of current information and practical tools to use in their encounters with patients, free continuing education credits, access to information without having to travel, and availability at their convenience. Healthcare providers are encouraged to participate by their professional organizations across the state.

KPA is requesting funding for the Health Professionals Education on Prematurity (HPEP) Program and build on the current program to continue to educate health care professionals on prematurity with topics focusing on late preterm births and other risk factors or consequences of preterm births.

Through the use of registration questions, preprogram survey, and posttest evaluations (which must be completed by the participant to obtain credit hours), data will be collected and analyzed on practice patterns and current knowledge of health care providers across the state. These data will be presented to the MOD/MCH Steering Committee on Prematurity Prevention and served as the basis for targeting specific gaps in knowledge or practice, and as a baseline for measuring the progress of the campaign.

With the design, and implementation of the first web-based course on prematurity prevention, and its success of reaching over 500 health care professionals, and results of evaluation of the program, the March of Dimes Greater Kentucky Chapter recently won a March of Dimes National Award for Best Practices in the area of Professional Education for the HPEP project. The Greater Kentucky Chapter is listed in the 2006 MOD Best Practices for Chapters. Please see attached Update.

The continuation of the HPEP project will also be coordinated by the Kentucky Perinatal Association, a multi-disciplinary, non-profit group with more than a decade of experience with projects and meetings on perinatal health issues emphasizing education, advocacy, and networking. This group has partnered with MOD and the MCH on a number of projects in the past and shares the common goal of improving health outcomes for Kentucky mothers and babies.

### **Some Good News: You Made the KPA June 2006 Annual Meeting a Great Success**

On the other hand, "Our annual meeting in Lake Cumberland last week was a great success!" ventured Juliana Dick, KPA Executive Director. She continued, "At first count, not including sponsors, exhibitors and KPA Board members, we had well over 100 people attend, and that set a record." In fact, the conference room was filled to the rear with tables. Attendee comments about the meeting and its agenda seem very favorable as well. The KPA board counted representation at the meeting from 81 institutions, 26 hospitals, and 14 health departments. We were very honored to have Dr. Pat Nicol attend the lectureship named in her honor on Monday June 5. KPA Treasurer, Mr. Gary Walls, did a wonderful job of introducing Dr. Nicol and noting her many years of devoted and selfless service to Kentucky.

### **There's More: HPEP Project Breaks the 500 Mark**

Leading off the conference this year as first speaker, Dr. Henrietta Bada from the University of Kentucky reviewed the latest data on the Health Professional Education on Prematurity (HPEP)

course. She noted that as of Monday June 5, more than 520 professionals have taken or are taking this on-line course, including some from as far away as California and someone from Italy! Our goal was to see at least 500 enrolled. It is not too late to take this course: PLEASE TAKES THIS COURSE IF YOU ARE A PERINATAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.

### **Annual March of Dimes Prematurity Summit Thursday, November 30, 2006**

Breckinridge Inn Hotel  
2800 Breckinridge Lane  
Louisville KY  
8:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

It's supposed to take 9 months for a baby to be born. But for reasons largely unknown, more than 1,280 babies arrive too soon. Please join fellow healthcare providers to learn about cutting edge research and innovative programs that help save babies from being born too soon. We will be joined by prominent physicians, such as Dr. Charles Lockwood, who was instrumental in developing the fetal Fibronectin test, and Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd,



June 2006 Meeting

Director of the Division of Adult and Child Health for the State Department for Public Health.

**Registration:**

Physicians: \$50

Nurses: \$25

Students: \$20

Other: \$25

Breakfast, lunch, parking, syllabus and CE credit is included in the registration cost. Only 200 spaces available. Please register by November 27.

**Register by phone via Norton Healthcare**

**Contact Center:**

(800) 852-1770 (502) 629-1234, Monday - Friday:  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Location and Parking:**

Breckinridge Inn Hotel: 2800 Breckinridge Lane,  
Louisville, Kentucky  
(502) 456-5050

Parking is free at the Hotel.

**Kentucky Expanded Newborn Metabolic Screening Metrics for the First Few Months of Expansion**

In Louisville on June 2, 2006, featured speaker Dr. Piere Rinaldo from the Mayo clinic, Dr. Gordon Gowans, and Dr. Alexander Asamoah among others reviewed metabolic screening issues in the state. Kentucky belongs to the HRSA/MCHB Regional Collaborative Four which is the first of seven regions in the nation to employ tandem mass spectrometry in all its regional member states. Dr. Stephanie Mayfield, Medical Director of the Kentucky State Laboratory, will present a paper on the first three months of performance metrics at the 6th Annual International Society of Newborn Screening to be held in September in Japan. In those first few months, about a dozen cases of metabolic diseases were confirmed in Kentucky based on positive screens. A number of these were fatty acid oxidation disorders such as MCAD for which there was no screening prior to December 2005 in Kentucky. Identification of these newborns was not previously possible before expanded screening became a reality. Although the ongoing deployment of technology in this area will remain complex, expensive, and not without scientific

controversy, Kentucky has moved forward in this area under the leadership of Dr. Steve Davis, now Deputy Commissioner of Health for the state, and the Newborn Screening Workgroup supported by our academic centers in Lexington and Louisville. During the annual KPA meeting, Dr. John Morrison reviewed the administrative expansion regarding newborn screening on the national and state levels over the past several years, noting the point of care resources presented at two important websites: those of the NNSGRC (National Newborn Screening Genetics and Resource Center) and ACMG (American College of Medical Genetics) websites. The ACMG site will be of particular interest to physicians in that its brand new ACT sheets and diagnostic algorithms are a mouse click away and can be accessed from a computer 24/7/365 - see ACMG ANNOUNCES . . . . The Kentucky Department of Public Health has published additional training modules on newborn screening which are available upon registration at the following website: <https://ky.train.org>. Five newborn screening modules can found under the Course Search tab and entering the keyword 'newborn screening's.

**Some Bad News: Kentucky's Prematurity Rate Continues to Rise**

Unfortunately, as Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd noted in her Pat Nicol keynote Lecture on Monday June 5, Kentucky's prematurity rate continues to rise and is now in the neighborhood of 14%, well above the national average. She and the various speakers at our conference reviewed some of the reasons: the greater delivery rates of the LATE PRETERM infant (34 - 37 weeks gestation) are the major force behind this disturbing national and state trend. Several speakers at the conference, especially Dr. Eric Reynolds of the University of Kentucky, examined the details of this concern. It is clear that this problem will have to be addressed on both sides of the placenta. In just four short years, the 2010 Healthy People Goal is to reach a rate of less than 8% prematurity rate in the United States. Kentucky is nearly double that rate at this time.

The Kentucky  
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## The KPA

## KPA Information

The Kentucky Perinatal Association is a non-profit incorporated volunteer association of health care providers, consumers and organizations with a common purpose toward the recognition of maternal-infant health care issues dedicated to the provision of comprehensive solutions through educational outreach and advocacy.

Started in 1988, the KPA is comprised of a broad range of health care professionals. Board members meet quarterly, volunteering their time after full work schedules to understand and further the cause of perinatal health issues for mothers and their infants.

We seek representation from all parts of the state. This representation assists, among other state leaders, the Director of Maternal Child Health for the state, in keeping perinatal health care problems and solutions in focus. Recent expansion efforts such as the hiring of an Executive Director, ongoing planning for Educational Outreach Projects, and increased visibility through Internet access as signs of our commitment to our purpose and objectives. Efforts at grant proposal writing are a new way we seek to gain capital for our education and outreach efforts.

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**NEW KPA Website:**

[kentuckyperinatal.com](http://kentuckyperinatal.com)

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