

39th Annual Gravens Conference

On the Environment of Care for
High Risk Newborns and Their Families

June 15-18, 2026

“Sensitive Issues in Sensational Times”

Monday, June 15th

Let the Festivities Begin!

TIME	SESSION / EVENT	LOCATION
Tentative	Various Meetings (FCC Taskforce, Standards, Belonging, Planning, etc.)	
8:00 pm-4:00 pm	Relmaging the NICU - Troy Savage <i>Optional pre-meeting with separate registration</i>	
4:00 pm-7:00 pm	Registration Desk Open	
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Welcome Reception <i>Cash Bar Only</i>	

Tuesday, June 16th

Science & Application

Welcome, Breaks, Awards, and Closing Do Not Count for CME/CE

TIME	SESSION / EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 am-5:00 pm	Registration Desk Open	
7:00 am-8:00 am	Continental Breakfast Provided (1 hr)	

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Plenary Sessions in (Location)

Moderator: (Robert White and Joy Browne)

TIME	SESSION / EVENT	PRESENTER
8:00 am-8:15 am	Welcome & Introductions	Joy Browne
8:15 am-9:00 am	Family-Centered Collaborative Care Models that Support Families and Optimize Preterm Infant and Child Health Outcomes	Jessica di Bari
9:00 am-9:45 am	Care of the Mother is Care for the Baby	Heather Burris

9:45 am-10:15 am

Break (30 min)

10:15 am-11:00 am	Central Autonomic Network Connectivity is Altered in an Extra-uterine Environment	Catherine Limperopoulos
11:00 am-11:45 am	Findings About Sensory Input	Roger Soll

11:45 am-1:00pm

Lunch (75 min)

1:00 pm-1:45 pm	Skin to Skin: Best for Baby, Best for Mother	Elizabeth Rogers
1:45 pm-2:30 pm	All Care is Brain Care	Sonia Bonifacio

**2:30 pm-3:00 pm
Break (30 min)**

3:00 pm-3:30 pm	Gravens Award Presentation	TBD
3:30 pm-4:15 pm	Sensitive Issues for Babies, Parents, and their Relationships	Joy Browne
4:15 pm-4:45 pm	Panel Discussion Among Speakers and Parents on How These Topics Have Been Experienced by Parents	TBD
4:45 pm-5:00 pm	FCC Taskforce presentation	FCC Taskforce
5:00 pm-5:15 pm	Final Thoughts and Take-Home Messages	Robert White

6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Reception & Poster Walk in Exhibit Hall

Substantial Snacks Provided

7:00 pm-7:45 pm, Poster Authors Available

8:10 pm-8:30 pm, Door Prize Raffle: Vincent C. Smith

Wednesday, June 17th

Themed Tracks

Welcome, Breaks, and Closing Do Not Count for CME/CE

TIME	SESSION / EVENT	LOCATION
6:30 am-7:15 am	Run, Walk, Skip Around Notre Dame Campus	Meet at (location)
7:00 am-8:00 am	Continental Breakfast Provided / Networking Tables (1 hour)	
7:30 am-1:30 pm	Registration Desk Open	

8:00 am-1:00 pm

Themed Tracks

Track A in (Location) Infant and Family Centered Developmental Care Moderator: Joy Browne		Track B in (Location) Newborn ICU Design Moderator: Robert White	
8:00 am-8:15 am	Introductions & Announcements	8:00 am-8:15 am	Introductions & Announcements
8:15 am-8:45 am	Perspectives on sensory system development - Robert Lickliter	8:15 am-9:00 am	Therapeutic Design - Mardelle Shepley
8:45 am-9:30 am	Clinical Application from Touch Research- Nathalie Maitre	9:00 am-9:45 am	Designing NICU spaces for ritual and healing - Anya Vanacek and Julia Jude
9:30 am-10:15 am	Clinical Application from Auditory/Visual Research - Manuela Filippa	9:45 am-10:30 am	Soundscapes - Bobbi Pineda
10:15 am-10:45 am	Break (30 min)		
		10:30 am-11:00 am	Break (30 min)
10:45 am-11:30 am	Clinical Application from Chemosensory Research- Julie Mennella	<i>Exhibitors to Break Down</i>	
11:30 am-12:15 pm	Clinical Application from an Integrated Perspective of Sensory Development - Jeff Alberts	11:00 am-11:45 am	New Unit Presentation-Alli Kasper, Brianna Leigh, and Karizma Maxson
12:15 pm-12:45 pm	Clinical Application the Environment of Care from the Parents' Perspective (Panel)	11:45 am-12:45 pm	Using AI for NICU design - Troy Savage

12:45 pm-1:00 pm	Summary & Next Steps for Implementation - Joy Browne	12:45 pm-1:00 pm	Summary & Next Steps - Robert White
1:00 pm-4:00 pm Lunch (on your own), Rest, Play, Network, NICU tour Tour of the Beacon Children's Couplet Care/SFR NICU			
4:00 pm-4:45 pm Welcome Back & Networking <i>Substantial Snacks Provided</i>			
4:45 pm-6:00 pm Workshops (75 minutes)			
TIME	SESSION / EVENT	MODERATOR	
4:45 pm-6:00 pm	A: New and improved IFCDC workshop		
	B: Heather Burriss and Katey Mari		
	C: Reimagining the NICU Wrap Up – Troy Savage		
	D: Are We Really Seeing Delirium in Babies? A Conversation About Behavioral Assessment and Intervention - Jeff Alberts		
	E: Support for NICU Fathers and Non-Birthing parents-Cameron Boyd, Alex Zavala, Craig Garfield, Molly Fraust-Wylie		
	F: Save for abstracts		

Thursday, June 18th Family Topics & Reflection Abstracts & Workshops <i>Welcome, Breaks, and Closing Do Not Count for CME/CE</i>		
TIME	SESSION / EVENT	LOCATION
6:30 am-7:15 am	Run, Walk, Shuffle Around Notre Dame Campus	
7:00 am-8:00 am	Continental Breakfast Provided (1 hour)	
7:00 am-11:15 am	Registration Desk Open	
8:00 am-12:00 pm Plenary Session in (Location) Moderator: (Vincent C. Smith and Molly Fraust-Wylie)		
8:00 am-8:10 am	Introductions and Announcements	Vincent C. Smith & Molly Fraust-Wylie
8:10 am-8:40 am	A NICU Dad's perspective	Alex Zavala
8:40 am-9:15 am	Experiences of NICU Fathers and Non-Birthing Parents	Cameron Boyd
9:15 am-10:00 am	NICU Discharge Planning Considerations for NICU Fathers and Non-Birthing Parents	Craig Garfield

**10:00 am-10:30 am
Break (30 min)**

10:30 am-11:05 am	Audience engagement activity	Troy Savage
11:05 am-11:50 am	Parent Panel	Molly Fraust-Wylie, Mia Malcolm
11:50 am- 12:00 pm	Acknowledgement & Celebration of Juneteenth Wrap Up/Warm Send Off	

**12:00 pm-1:15 pm
Planning Committee Meeting
Lunch (75 min)**

**1:15 pm-2:30 pm
Abstracts (75 minutes)**

TIME	ABSTRACT	MODERATOR
1:15 pm-2:30 pm	A: Developmental Care	
	B: Family Support	
	C: Feeding/Lactation	
	D: Family Support	
	E: Potpourri	
	F: TBS	

**2:30 pm-3:00 pm
Break (30 min)**

**3:00 pm-4:15 pm
Workshops (75 minutes)**

3:00 pm-4:15 pm	A: Share Your Challenges at a Round Table Discussion	
	B: Words Matter: Navigating Sensitive Situations with Intentional Language in the NICU- Ramya Kumar	
	C: Trauma-Informed Expectations for Gratitude in the NICU- Mia Malcolm and Jessica di Bari	
	D: Abstract session	
	E: Relationships in the NICU: will AI foster or hinder? - Jim Gray and Bridget Davern	
	F: TBD-Elizabeth Rogers and Sonia Bonifacio	
4:15 pm	Safe Travels until Next Graven Conference	

Friday, June 19th
HAPPY JUNETEENTH!

Juneteenth is a United States federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery.

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