

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
8:00 pm-4:00 pm	Reimagining the NICU - Troy Savage <i>Optional Pre Conference 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>	Podium at Embassy Suites

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 hour)	

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Plenary Sessions

Downes Ballroom - Corbett Family Hall

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 DiBari
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	All Care is Brain Care: Lessons learned from an international quality improvement collaborative to improve brain health and outcomes (Part 1)	Roger Soll, Elizabeth Rogers, Sonia Bonifacio

11:45 am-1:00 pm

Lunch (75 min)

1:00 pm-2:30 pm	All Care is Brain Care: Lessons learned from an international quality improvement collaborative to improve brain health and outcomes (Part 2)	Roger Soll, Elizabeth Rogers, Sonia Bonifacio
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2:30 pm-3:00 pm

Break (30 min)

3:00 pm-3:30 pm	Gravens Recognition Award Presentation	Mitch Goldstein
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 NICU Parents on Real-World Impact of Topics Presented	Molly Fraust-Wylie, Susanne Klawetter, Alex Zavala
4:45 pm-5:00 pm	Family Centered-Care (FCC) Scholars Introduction	Malathi Balasundaram
5:00 pm-5:15 pm	Final Thoughts and Take-Home Messages	Robert White
6:30 pm-8:30 pm Reception & Poster Walk Poster Session - Jordan Hall Galleria <i>Substantial Snacks Provided</i> 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 <i>Welcome, Breaks, and Closing Do Not Count for CME/CE</i>			
TIME	SESSION / EVENT		LOCATION
6:30 am-7:15 am	Run, Walk, Skip Around Notre Dame Campus		
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 Infant and Family-Centered Developmental Care Jordan Hall Room 101 Moderator: Joy Browne		Track B Newborn ICU Design Jordan Hall Room 105 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	The Importance of a Developmental Point of View of Sensory Processes - Robert Lickliter	8:15 am-9:00 am	Therapeutic Design - Mardelle Shepley
8:45 am-9:30 am	Clinical Application from Chemosensory Research - Julie Mennella	9:00 am-9:45 am	Designing NICU Spaces for Ritual and Healing - Anya Vanacek and Julia Jude
9:30 am-10:15 am	Development and Clinical Application from Embodied Vocal Presence 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	Reflections on Sensory Developmental Ecology and Its Applications for Care - Jeff Alberts	<i>Exhibitors to Break Down</i>	
11:30 am-12:00 pm	Clinical Application of the Environment of Care from the NICU Parents' Perspective – Jessica DiBari, Mia Malcolm, Jessi Barnes	11:00 am-11:45 am	New Unit Presentation - Brianna Leigh, and Karizma Maxson
12:00 pm-12:05pm	Summary & Next Steps - Joy Browne	11:45 am-12:45 pm	Using AI for NICU Design - Troy Savage

12:05 pm-12:35pm	Break (30 min)	12:45 pm-1:00 pm	Summary & Next Steps - Robert White
12:35 pm -1:00 pm	Development and Clinical Application from Auditory Tactile Research - Nathalie Maitre <i>(non-CME)</i>		
1:00 pm-4:00 pm Lunch, Rest, Play, Network, NICU Tour <i>Lunch Not Provided</i> Tour of the Beacon Children's Couplet Care/Single Family Room NICU			
4:00 pm-4:45 pm Welcome Back & Networking <i>Coffee and Light Snacks Provided</i>			
4:45 pm-6:00 pm Workshops (75 min)			
TIME	SESSION / EVENT	MODERATOR	
4:45 pm-6:00 pm	A: Culture Club: Culture as a Foundation for Quality Improvement - Elizabeth Rogers and Sonia Bonifacio (Room: Jordan Hall 101)	Mitch Goldstein	
	B: Taking Steps Toward Postpartum Care in the NICU - Heather Burris and Katey Mari (Room: Jordan Hall 105)	Morgan Kowalski	
	C: Reimagining the NICU: Wrap Up - Troy Savage (Room: Jordan Hall 412)	Robert White	
	D: Are We Really Seeing Delirium in Babies? A Conversation About Behavioral Assessment and Intervention - Jeff Alberts (Room: Jordan Hall 310)	Kathleen Kolberg	
	E: Support for NICU Fathers and Non-Birthing Parents - Cameron Boyd, Alex Zavala, and Craig Garfield (Room: Jordan Hall 322)	Molly Fraust-Wylie	
	F: Partnering with NICU parents and professionals: Methodological lessons from developing the PATH program - Susanne Klawetter (Room: Jordan Hall 402/405)	Mardelle Shepley	
6:30 pm-9:00 pm Dinner Banquet Heritage Hall - Joyce Center <i>Included with Conference Registration</i>			

Thursday, June 18th Family Topics & Reflections 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 Downes Ballroom - Corbett Family Hall Moderators: (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	Joy Browne & Robert White
12:00 pm-1:15 pm <i>Planning Committee Meeting</i> Lunch (75 min)		
1:15 pm-2:30 pm Abstracts (75 min)		
TIME	ABSTRACT	MODERATOR
1:15 pm-2:30 pm	Developmental Care (Room: Jordan Hall 322): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parent-Delivered Neurodevelopmental Care: Standardizing an Approach to Parent Education - Grace King, Tierney Morrison, Aimee Godett, Marge Day, Emily Whitesel (Abstract 30) 2. Interventions Designed to Improve the Postpartum Health and Wellbeing of Parents of Infants in the NICU: A Scoping Review - Sarah Verbiest, Wayne Price, Kimarie Bugg (Abstract 19) 3. Multidisciplinary Journey to Reliable Social Determinants of Health Screening for NICU Families: Navigating Barriers in the NICU Village - Rosanne Buck, Dory Ziperstein, Molly Faust-Wylie, Erika Sevieri, Gina Story, Emily Whitesel, Yarden Fraiman (Abstract 7) 	Vincent C. Smith
	Family Support (A) (Room: Jordan Hall 101): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmonizing Developmental and Medical Communication in the NICU: A Dynamic Digital Platform to Augment Family-Centered Care - Ansul Asad, Yaya Ren, Bree Andrew (Abstract 36) 2. Early Parental Presence in the NICU: Social Determinants and Maternal Mental Health Shape Family Engagement for High Risk Infants - Jaclyn Ruggiero, Allison Davidson (Abstract 47) 3. Family-Centered Care: Increasing Positive Family Engagement and Interactions with Infants in the NICU - Terri Sandoval, Alison 	Malathi Balasundaram

	Smith, Jamie Lujan, Jennifer Guadalupe, Rachel Carlos, Candice Martinez (Abstract 4)	
	<p>Developmental Care/Family-Centered Care (Room: Jordan Hall 310):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Journey to a Developmental Care Continuum: An Interdisciplinary Collaborative Approach to Developmental Care in the NICU - Tiara Bolden, Lisa Miller, Cynthia Ruggles, Mary Beth Sanders, Laura Schacht, Lindsay Schuler, Kelly Crombie, Janet Dierstein, Susannah Dillender, Christine Houlihan, Amy Salisbury (Abstract 51) 2. Designing the NICU of the Future: National Survey Insights on Workforce Support, Digital Integration, and Family Partnership - Lisa Davenport, Jaylee Hilliard (Abstract 32) 3. Reimagining the NICU Environment of Care: Applying Human Factors and Ergonomics to Support Safe, Sustained Skin-to-Skin (Kangaroo) Care for High Risk Infants and Families - Yamile Jackson (Abstract 6) 	Molly Fraust-Wylie
	<p>Family Support (B) (Room: Jordan Hall 105):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mapping Neonatal Transfer Patterns to Inform Family-Centered Care: Capacity and Distance Across Levels of Care - Amanda Luff, Emily Malloy, Veronica Fitzpatrick (Abstract 15) 2. Advancing Family Engagement in the NICU: A Qualitative Exploration of Barriers and Facilitators - Laura Rose, Kayla Schmittau, Kristen Schaffer, Alejandro Chavez, Katherine Lopez-Lepe, Linda Franck, Henry Lee (Abstract 8) 3. Effect of Parent Education Classes on Confidence and Stress of Parents of Infants Admitted to the NICU of a Tertiary Care Hospital in India - Pooja Dekhane, Puja Padbidri, Madhura Gandhi, Madhuri Patil, Eilish Byrne (Abstract 22) 	Mia Malcom
	<p>Potpourri (Room: Jordan Hall 412):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reaching NICU Families: Feasibility of Recruiting High Risk Infants - Ashlee Vance, Eman Dannaway (Abstract 33) 2. Beyond Just Cuddles: Creating a Medical Student Cuddlers Program for an Evolving Level 4 NICU - Stephanie Bernard, Lauren Felzani, Rivky Barnetsky, Likhitha Patlolla, Jordan Bryan, Donessa Jenae Colley, Andrea Weintraub (Abstract 17) 3. Development of a Conceptual Framework for Financial Hardship in Neonatal Care - Ashlee Vance (Abstract 26) 	Joy Browne
	<p>Design (Room: Jordan Hall 402/405):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acoustic Comfort in Newborn Intensive Care - Kathleen Philbin (Abstract 52) 2. Beyond Single-Family Rooms: A Hybrid NICU Model Responsive to Community Demographics - Zoraya Stern, Maria D'Souza, Whitney K. Fuessel (Abstract 24) 	Robert White
2:30 pm-3:00 pm		
Break (30 min)		
3:00 pm-4:15 pm		
Workshops (75 min)		

3:00 pm-4:15 pm	A: Family-Centered Care in Action: Collaboration, Measurement, and Improvement- Malathi Balasundaram and Morgan Kowalski (Room: Jordan Hall 105)	Malathi Balasundaram
	B: Words Matter: Navigating Sensitive Situations with Intentional Language in the NICU - Ramya Kumar (Room: Jordan Hall 310)	Judy Smith
	C: Trauma-Informed Expectations for Gratitude in the NICU - Mia Malcolm and Jessica Barnes (Room: Jordan Hall 402/405)	Mia Malcolm
	D: D.R.I.V.E. Better Care: Developing Emotionally Present NICU Teams to Strengthen Family-Centered Care - Weston Brandon (Room: Jordan Hall 322)	Mitch Goldstein
	E: Relationships in the NICU: Will AI Foster or Hinder? - Jim Gray and Bridget Davern (Room: Jordan Hall 101)	Vincent C. Smith
	F: The Second Edition of the Infant and Family-Centered Developmental Care Standards: Discussion and Dissemination - Tiara Bolden, Carol Jaeger and Joy Browne (Room: Jordan Hall 412)	Joy Browne
4:15 pm	Safe Travels, See You at the Next Gravens Conference!	

Friday, June 19th
HAPPY JUNETEENTH!

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