35th Anniversary and Founders Celebration

This year, Resolve Through Sharing proudly celebrated its 35th year of training healthcare professionals who provide relationship- and evidence-based care to families who experience the death of a loved one at any point from prenatal to old age. The Anniversary and Founders Celebration took place in La Crosse, Wisconsin on August 1st. Former and current staff joined program founders and champions, bereaved families, and special honoree, Dr. Rana Limbo, for an evening of commemoration, recognition, and celebration.

Pictured above: RTS program founders and early champions Kathryn Hill Goettl, Carolyn Hays Beguin, Dr. Rana Limbo, Marie Walter, Dr. Ted Peck, Dr. Sara Rich Wheeler

Pictured above: RTS staff Nathan Haase, Mary Thurin, Kathleen Cassidy, Melissa Koch, Marie Walter, Mary Beth Hensel, Dr. Rana Limbo
New Staff

Business Coordinator Andrew Manson

Join us in welcoming Andrew Manson to the role of Resolve Through Sharing Business Coordinator. Andrew brings a diverse skillset to the team with a paralegal and retail sales background. He is experienced in all matters of business coordination and office management. Andrew came to us looking for an opportunity to utilize his competencies in a more meaningful way through mission-based work. We believe he has found the right home at the RTS National Office!

“I am very excited to be joining this wonderful team, and I look forward to working together to help make a difference in the lives of others.”

New National Faculty Member

Pat Martin, MS, RN

Pat brings over 40 years of nursing experience to her role as our newest RTS national faculty. Her history includes labor and delivery, postpartum, and neonatal bedside care. Her extensive teaching experience, as faculty in an associate degree nursing program, extends beyond obstetrics to mental health, leadership, communication, and end-of-life care. She also served as Chair of Nursing for Northeast Iowa Community College prior to her retirement from the school. Her clinical and teaching background, leadership experience, and curriculum development expertise are welcome additions. Pat is passionately committed to providing bereavement education. Her warm, welcoming persona and strength of character are just two of the reasons we are so pleased to welcome her to the RTS team!

Treats from the Women’s Hospital of Texas

The Women’s Hospital of Texas recently held a Resolve Through Sharing training at their facility, and the chef honored RTS with these delicious creations, cookies frosted with the RTS logo, leaf and teardrop included. Thank you!
Adam’s Hope

Bob and Mary Anne Rennebohm already had two daughters, Sarah and Molly, when they learned they were expecting a third baby in 1983. They did not realize at the time that this unborn gift, their son Adam, would die shortly after birth, and would leave a legacy that influenced the care families received when their child was born with a life-limiting condition. Adam had Trisomy 13, a chromosomal abnormality that lives in every cell of a baby's body. The condition would take his life. Over the years, his mother, father, sisters, and many other family members remembered Adam and ultimately donated funds in his memory to offer perinatal bereavement education to genetic counseling students.

Adam's father grew up in Madison, WI, and when Adam's mother learned it was Dr. Klaus Patau in 1960 at UW-Madison who reported the extra chromosome in trisomy 13, they contacted UW-Madison in hope of finding a way to help other families who would experience perinatal loss. In 2008, the Rennebohms partnered with world-renowned stillbirth researcher Dr. Richard Pauli and the leaders of the genetic counseling program, both at UW, the University of Minnesota, and Northwestern University to inform the students on the standards of care recommended when a baby died. They selected Resolve Through Sharing (RTS) as their education partner, and in November, 2008, Drs. Rana Limbo and Lynn Carey from RTS joined Dr. Pauli, Casey Reiser, MS, CGC, and Peggy Modaff MS, CGC, to present the first Adam Rennebohm Memorial Lecture. Now known as Adam’s Hope, the program will reach every genetic counseling program in the U.S., thanks to the generous support from the Rennebohms.

Exhibits

Looking ahead to 2017 – where can you expect to see the RTS team exhibiting?

AWHONN

The RTS team will also be represented once again at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Convention. The convention is the largest educational event for obstetric, neonatal, and women’s health nurses. Last summer, RTS Lead Educator, Marie Walter, joined the thousands in attendance at the convention, hosted in Grapevine, TX. The 2017 AWHONN Convention will be held in New Orleans at the end of June.
The 2016 International Perinatal Bereavement Conference (IPBC) sponsored by Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance (PLIDA) in Phoenix, Arizona was nothing short of amazing. Pre-cons, keynotes, plenary and concurrent sessions featured diverse topics covered by a wide range of perinatal loss experts. In support of IPBC, PLIDA was granted approval for a Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). It was an exceptional honor for PLIDA to be chosen for the award. PCORI funds organizations that they believe conduct projects to increase the meaningful engagement of healthcare stakeholders in the research process by expanding their knowledge and skills and creating opportunities to build connections and share research findings.

Resolve Through Sharing was well represented at IPBC by both staff members from the national office and RTS National Faculty members. PLIDA president, Dr. Rana Limbo, and RTS National Faculty members Kathie Kobler, Marie Walter, Rana Limbo, Lori Ives-Baine, Deb Rich, and Jill Wilke all presented at the conference, and Gina Jones, Beth Ricci, Dana Brantley, and Heather Silver were in attendance. Limbo and Jones were two of the four conference planning co-chairs.

RTS had the pleasure of exhibiting between two valued partners – Memories Unlimited and Faith’s Lodge. We would like to thank everyone who stopped by the RTS booth and who signed up to win a free registration to an RTS bereavement training course. Congratulations to our three winners, Moshe Winograd, Lindi Baker, and Ashley Matson.

RTS Website, Email, and Logo Changes

Resolve Through Sharing®
BEREAVEMENT EDUCATION SINCE 1981

RTS has a new look! Recent updates to the RTS website, logo, and email address have been made including changes to the RTS website and email domain names. You can now find RTS online at ResolveThroughSharing.org or contact us by email at rts@gundersenhealth.org.
Publications

Perinatal Palliative Care Guest Editorial

Resolve Through Sharing continues to provide leadership in scholarship and education, incorporating evidence-based practice on perinatal palliative care (PPC) into courses, materials, and speaking engagements. Drs. Rana Limbo and Charlotte Wool recently wrote a guest editorial on PPC for the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing (JOGNN). The following excerpt from the guest editorial demonstrates why perinatal palliative care will remain a central focus of preparing professionals for their work with families:

Parents who experience perinatal death suffer deeply, yet in the midst of suffering there are moments in which human kindness and exemplary professional practice can make a difference. PPC allows professionals to demonstrate the deepest of human responses and understand that the meaning of life is embodied by the very youngest in our world (Limbo & Wool, 2016, p. 613).


The two researchers, Limbo and Wool, also completed a policy brief for the American Academy of Nursing on the topic, co-authored with three others.

Embedding Standardized Bereavement Care for all Hospital Deaths

Establishing and maintaining a hospital wide bereavement program is no small task. It requires an interprofessional team and continuous effort to assure appropriate education, support, and collaboration amongst the entire team. “Embedding Standardized Bereavement Care for all Hospital Deaths,” written by Marie A. Walter and Dr. Rana Limbo for the ChiPPS E-Journal, suggests the necessary steps to creating an institutional standard for bereavement care and discusses some of the barriers that Resolve Through Sharing has identified in the past 35 years that every organization implementing a system-wide program of bereavement care should consider, anticipate, and provide for.


RTS Position Statement Updates

Resolve Through Sharing position statements, “Cooling a Baby’s Body After Death,” written in 2015, and “Perinatal Palliative Care,” written in 2008, were both recently revised. Each statement has been endorsed by the Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance (PLIDA) and both were included in the “Compilation of Position Statements,” provided to all attendees of the 2016 International Perinatal Bereavement Conference. RTS position papers are available to download from the RTS website at http://www.gundersenhealth.org/resolve-through-sharing/resources/.

New Resource

Parental Physical Proximity in End-of-Life Care in the PICU

Jeannette Falkenburg, MA; Dick Tibboel, MD, PhD; Ruard R. Ganzvoort, MA, PhD; Saskia Gischler, MD, PhD; Jacobus Hagoort, MA; Monique van Dijk, PhD

At the time of death, parents wish to stay connected to their child receiving end-of-life care, and healthcare professionals wish to accommodate the needs of both the parents and the child; however, the PICU environment often makes it challenging for parents to be physically near their child at all times. This study discusses the effects the PICU environment has on the parent-child relationship during end-of-life care.

TinyHeart™

TinyHeart™ is Resolve Through Sharing’s latest product from Memories Unlimited. TinyHeart is specifically designed for parents who experience a miscarriage (pregnancy loss at less than 20 weeks gestation). TinyHeart provides a respectful way for parents to store the container that holds the remains of
a miscarriage (i.e., baby or tissue) when they are on the way to or returning home from the healthcare setting. The inner dimensions of TinyHeart, 3¼” diameter x 4¼” high, are sized to accommodate the containers for the miscarriage remains. TinyHeart comes with The Sachet Heart Pillow, an ID Label, and Staff Checklist. TinyHeart is eco-friendly and can be buried as a whole with the container, it can be saved as a keepsake, or it can be used as an urn for cremated remains.

Coming in 2017
It’s Never Too Early™

It’s Never Too Early™, a Resolve Through Sharing education and awareness campaign promoting evidence-based care of those experiencing miscarriage, will premiere in early 2017. A white paper, with standard operating procedures, checklist, summary of current literature, and information on respectful disposition will emphasize the importance of caring for women and their families. Additional information will follow in the winter edition of RTS Connection.

Bereavement Training: Perinatal Death

Bereavement Training: Perinatal Death course revisions are coming in 2017. Revisions include updates to the practice handbook, PowerPoint presentation, and presentation notes book. Check your email for more information about the upcoming revisions. Additional information will be in the winter edition of RTS Connection.

2017 Catalog

We are excitedly working on the next version of our support and educational materials catalog, which should be available in early January, 2017. The new catalog will be re-categorized for ease in finding the resources you need. In addition, to meet the needs of both small- and large-size organizations we are repackaging most of the patient support materials into packages of 10. When the catalog is available, you may request a print version or view it digitally at www.ResolveThroughSharing.org.

2016–2017 Bereavement and Coordinator Training Schedule

2016

Conway Regional Medical Center, Conway, AR
• Perinatal Death, November 14–15
• Coordinator Training, November 16

Agnesian HealthCare, Fond du Lac, WI
• Perinatal Death, November 28–29
• Coordinator Training, November 30

Tulane School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, New Orleans, LA
• Neonatal and Pediatric Death, November 30–December 1
• Coordinator Training, December 2

2017

The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center, Portland, ME
• Perinatal Death, April 24–25
• Coordinator Training, April 26

RTS National, La Crosse, WI
• Perinatal Death, August 7–8
• Coordinator Training, August 9

REGISTER TODAY at wrtsregistration.org