Join us in welcoming new National Faculty member, Tim Cranfill, DMin, BCC!

Tim brings over 20 years of experience to the RTS National Faculty team. His history includes work with psychiatric, rehab, medical oncology, pediatric oncology, pediatric intensive care, level one pediatric trauma, and neonatal intensive care patients. Additionally, he held a faculty appointment at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, School of Nursing where he taught courses on end-of-life issues, grief, and loss and conducted pediatric post-conferences for student nurses.

Tim is the Director of Pastoral Care and the Director of Bereavement Services for Northeast Baptist Hospital and Mission Trail Baptist Hospital in San Antonio, TX. He also holds an adjunct faculty appointment in a graduate professional counseling program. Tim is currently completing a second degree in professional counseling.

Tim’s strong educational background and energetic approach are two of the many reasons we are excited to welcome him to the RTS team!

It’s Never Too Early

Resolve Through Sharing has launched It’s Never Too Early, an awareness initiative that provides educational information on caring for women experiencing miscarriages and their families. The It’s Never Too Early White Paper and Clinical Guidelines are currently available to the public in the Resources section of the Resolve Through Sharing website. Watch for more materials in the upcoming months as RTS expands on the initiative.

June Test Dates

Become certified in perinatal loss care (CPLC) through the Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association. Application for June testing is now open. For more information, visit http://hpcc.advancingexpertcare.org/competence/perinatal-loss-cplc/
2017 RTS Bereavement Trainings

Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center, Harbor City, CA
• Perinatal Death, April 18–19
• Coordinator Training, April 20

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

HealthEast Care System, St. Paul, MN
• Perinatal Death, May 16–17
• Coordinator Training, May 18

Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX (Closed Training)
• Perinatal Death, May 22–23
• Coordinator Training, May 24

Gundersen Health System, La Crosse, WI
• Perinatal Death, August 7–8
• Pediatric and Adult Death, August 7–8
• Coordinator Training, August 9

REGISTER TODAY at rtsregistration.org

Exhibits

Neonatal Leadership Forum at The Wigwam Resort, Litchfield, AZ
• April 25–29

Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care at the Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI
• April 30–May 2

International Death, Grief & Bereavement Conference at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI
• June 5–7

AWHONN at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA
• June 25–27

Perinatal Leadership Forum at The Wigwam Resort, Litchfield, AZ
• November 8–11

Thanks to Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, TX, for recently hosting Perinatal Death, Neonatal and Pediatric Death, and Pediatric and Adult Death Bereavement Training.

Pictured are National Faculty member, Tim Cranfill; Lead Educator, Marie Walter; National Faculty member and Coordinator of Bereavement and Supportive Care Services in the NICU at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, Gina Jones; and National Faculty member, Pat Martin.
Ask Our Experts

Have a question for the experts at RTS? Visit Ask Our Experts on the RTS website to submit a question or see previously submitted questions and answers.

Here’s an example of a recent question.

**Question:** Regarding [a cooling device], we have had a staff member who personally experienced a loss tell us that from her perspective and from the perspectives of some other parents with whom she has discussed her experience, it was very upsetting that her baby’s body was cold when she held him. Other RNs have shared experiences of warming a baby’s body prior to parents holding it. Do you have any evidence-based recommendations on whether it is generally preferable to parents to warm their baby prior to holding? If we do warm, is there a recommended way to do this? And does this increase infection risk or physiological postmortem changes in the infant? Thank you very much for any guidance.

**Answer:** Resolve Through Sharing has a published position statement, endorsed by the Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance (PLIDA), regarding infant cooling after death. Here are a few key points for consideration:

- Rarely does a baby’s body require cooling for any reason. Even delaying postmortem evaluation, such as pathology studies or autopsy, has little or no impact on results.
- Postmortem changes are somewhat slowed, but not prevented, when the baby’s body is cooled. The body requires cooling to nearly 34° for the process to be slowed down. Once the body is re-warmed it seems likely that the deterioration that began prior to cooling will resume.
- Parents benefit from contact with their babies. This interaction affirms the relationship and allows for memory making. Anything we can do to help the family take advantage of the time they have with their baby, we should do. This includes allowing other family members to see and hold the baby, photographing these moments, and co-creating rituals.

I am not aware of any evidence that supports or refutes the re-warming process for a baby that has been cooled significantly. At our hospital, if a baby has been in the morgue, we might wrap the baby in a heated blanket and prepare the parents for the condition of the baby (cold, firm to the touch, darker in color). It is also important to inform parents of the postmortem changes that will occur as time goes on. Often, as the deterioration occurs, the baby “tells” the parents that it is time to say goodbye. Whatever we can do to prepare and support the parents will be beneficial to their healing process.

I hope these comments are helpful. I am pleased that you are trying to maintain a practice that is both evidence-based and compassionate.

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Attention RTS Coordinators

Check your inbox for the new Coordinator Insider, an exclusive email communication that provides helpful tools and tips from RTS Lead Educator, Marie Walter.
Perinatal and Pediatric Bereavement in Nursing and Other Health Professions

*Perinatal and Pediatric Bereavement in Nursing and Other Health Professions* won the first place American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award for 2016 in the palliative and hospice category. Associate Director and cofounder of Resolve Through Sharing, Rana Limbo, PhD, RN, CPLC, FAAN, is one of the editors—and co-author of three chapters—of the award-winning book. Additional contributions were made by present and former RTS members: Jane Heustis, Kathie Kobler, and Sara Rich Wheeler.


From the foreword by Betty Ferrell, PhD, MA, FAAN, FPCN, internationally known leader in palliative nursing and bereavement care:

*This is a definitive, state-of-the-art resource on the vital pieces of perinatal and pediatric palliative care. Culling the most important new evidence-based research and findings from scholars and practitioners worldwide, it links theoretical knowledge and clinical practice to fill a gap in current information. The text is distinguished by its provision of different and even competing perspectives that address the complexities of the tragic human experience of perinatal, neonatal, and pediatric death and its focus on the nurses and other health care providers who provide care to those involved.*

Bearing the Unbearable: Love Loss and the Heartbreaking Path of Grief

Widely known author, researcher, and clinician in bereavement, Joanne Cacciatore, has a new book coming out on June 27. *Bearing the Unbearable: Love, Loss, and the Heartbreaking Path of Grief* tells stories of grief and heartache and seeks to understand the different journeys that follow the losses of loved ones. This book is appropriate for both those who are experiencing their own grief and those who care for others experiencing grief.

*The Huffington Post* published a review about the anticipated book, which can be read here: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ira-israel/bearing-the-unbearable-lo_b_14483296.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ira-israel/bearing-the-unbearable-lo_b_14483296.html).