Dr. Limbo Receives Award of Excellence in Leadership

In June, the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) held its annual national convention in New Orleans. Thousands of clinicians attended the event to present, learn, network, or – in the case of RTS Associate Director and co-founder, Dr. Rana Limbo – celebrate. During the opening ceremony of the convention, Dr. Limbo was honored with the first ever, Award of Excellence in Leadership. She was granted the award for her outstanding history of individual contribution to promote the profession of women’s or newborn’s health nursing within a system, culture, or division.

Since the inception of RTS, Dr. Limbo has been providing education to healthcare providers caring for patients and families experiencing pregnancy loss. She has listened to stories of loss told by many families, she has researched and written numerous publications, and she has presented around the world. “Dr. Limbo has led remarkable efforts to promote the relationship development between bereaved parents and those caring for them” said AWHONN’s Chief Executive Officer, Lynn Erdman, MN, RN, FAAN.

Dr. Limbo receiving the Award of Excellence in Leadership during the opening ceremony of the AWHONN Convention. “Her contributions have led healthcare professionals in developing their own expertise, reflection, and critical thinking on relationship-based care. This important work will help improve the quality of care we provide to every family.”

Apply Now to Win an RTS Scholarship

Now through October 31st, we are accepting applications for scholarships to attend a 2018 RTS National Training. Scholarships will cover registration fees for RTS Bereavement Training and RTS Coordinator Training. Visit the RTS website to learn more and apply.

CPLC Certification Scholarships

Want to become certified in perinatal loss (CPLC)? The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation offers monthly Certification Scholarships that cover registration costs for certification and recertification. For more information, visit http://advancingexpertcare.org/certification-scholarships/.
Annual La Crosse Training

Resolve Through Sharing hosted the annual La Crosse training August 7-9. This year’s event brought participants from 19 states, including seven participants who were granted RTS scholarships to attend. In addition to RTS Bereavement Trainings in Perinatal Death and Pediatric and Adult Death, participants had the opportunity to attend the launch of the revised RTS Coordinator Training and the premiere presentation of It’s Never Too Early (INTE).

The launch of the revised Coordinator Training made for a day of learning and preparing as participants looked to the future of delivering RTS training in their organizations. Participants demonstrated their teaching skills, reflected on the state of their current bereavement programs, and discussed ways of breaking barriers and achieving their goals.

Presented by RTS Associate Director, Dr. Rana Limbo and RTS Lead Educator, Marie Walter, INTE shed light on the different meanings a miscarriage can have to a family, and the best way to care for the family based on that meaning. If you missed the special presentation in La Crosse, don’t worry, you will have the opportunity to present it yourself. RTS is currently working on an INTE teaching kit that includes the presentation.

The wonderful stories and insights provided by participants, bereaved family members, and RTS National Faculty members, contributed to an excellent week of education. Said one participant about the event, “My goal was to go to the place where this program began. I was overwhelmed by the knowledge and the helpfulness of this organization.”

RTS staff, National Faculty, and participants enjoyed time together during a social hour after the first day of training. Pictured here are (back row) RTS Director, Mary Beth Hensel; National Faculty member, Jane Heustis; National Faculty member, Joyce Merrigan; Business Coordinator, Andrew Manson; Manager, Nathan Haase; (front row) Lead Educator, Marie Walter; Associate Director, Rana Limbo; Materials Specialist, Melissa Koch; and Senior Office Assistant, Kathleen Cassidy.

Coordinator Training Revisions

The newly updated RTS Coordinator Training includes new activities for participants to demonstrate their teaching skills, tips for presenting to peers, and group discussions on the importance of the role of Coordinator. Current RTS Coordinators are not required to attend the revised course; however, if you are a current Coordinator and you think you would benefit from attending, we are offering the option to audit the course for a reduced price of $275. This price includes a Coordinator Starter Kit (valued at $399). To register, choose the Coordinator Audit option on the registration form.
RTS Associate Director, Dr. Rana Limbo, and Kathie Kobler of Advocate Children’s Hospital, recently completed editing a new book entitled, *Conversations in Perinatal, Neonatal, and Pediatric Palliative Care*. *Conversations in Perinatal, Neonatal, and Pediatric Palliative Care* invites readers to enter the world of children with serious illness. The book is written in a conversational style that is informative and engaging, and it covers many important—and not often deeply discussed—topics on palliative care. In addition to her work editing the book, Dr. Limbo also co-authored two chapters in the book, including one with RTS National Faculty member, Deb Rich. RTS National Faculty member, Heather Silver, also authored a chapter in the book.

Purchase your copy on HPNA website
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 is an example of a recent question we received.

**Question**
Hello, I am one of the RTS [Coordinators], and the hospital that I am at does not have a plan of care for our patients experiencing perinatal loss. Would you be able to share the one you have at [your hospital]?

**Response**
Most electronic health records (EHRs) have built-in care plans and clinical practice guidelines (CPGs). Due to the proprietary nature of these systems, Resolve Through Sharing cannot offer exact examples of either care plans or CPGs. It is possible to purchase particular forms or care plans that another hospital has developed and incorporated into the electronic record, but only if that hospital shares the same EHR vendor as yours. While we cannot provide complete examples at no cost, we can discuss the elements of a care plan or CPG and offer assistance for creating you own.

Most facilities have a template that serves as a prototype for all care plans. Check with your place of employment to determine the person who does the formatting for your care plans and the process for creating a new one. On page 313 of the Resolve Through Sharing Bereavement Training: Perinatal Death Practice Handbook (9th edition), you will find a death and bereavement checklist for nursing staff. This checklist is a “to-do” list to complete with each patient, and it can provide direction in creating a care plan.

Here are some examples of elements of a care plan. The **patient specific goal** could be that the patient and family will demonstrate knowledge of the grieving process and integration strategies by the time of discharge. The **teaching and learning activities for the patient and family** could include the treatment plan (e.g., pain management, activities, coping techniques); self-management (e.g., dealing with loss, funeral planning, stages of grief); and warning signs (e.g., when to call the medical facility, worsening symptoms). **Assessment and interventions** could include readiness to learn, risks to safety, and appropriate interventions (e.g., family-centered approach to loss, developing a trusting relationship, assisting in creating mementos, facilitating private time with the baby).