

Neonatal Pharmacology Conference 2026: Incorporating Evidence-Based Practice into Clinical Decision Making



November 9-11, 2026
The Hyatt Hotel
Charleston, South Carolina

In-person & virtual attendance available

All live streaming sessions have been approved for
AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Presented by the Medical University of South Carolina
Neonatal Advanced Practice Provider Team,
Division of Neonatology,
and the Office of Continuing Medical Education



Neonatal Pharmacology Conference 2026: Incorporating Evidence-Based Practice into Clinical Decision Making

COURSE FACULTY

Cara Arpey, D.O.

Assistant Professor
Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
Department of Pediatrics
Medical University of South Carolina

Christy Baxter, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, C-ELBW, C-NNIC

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
Surgical Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

Jessica Benes, NNP-BC, MSN, APRN

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
MUSC Medical Center and
MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

Deborah Bondi, Pharm.D., FCCP, FPPA, BCPS, BCPP

Assistant Professor
Pediatric Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator
NICU Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
University of Chicago Medicine

Lisa Bystri, M.D., FACOG, DABOM

Clinical Associate Professor
Department of OB/GYN
Medical University of South Carolina

Katherine Chetta, M.D., FAAP

Assistant Professor
Department of Pediatrics/Neonatologist
College of Medicine
MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

Ashley Eason, M.D., MSc

Clinical Associate Professor
Pediatric Hematology Oncology
Department of Pediatrics
MUSC Children's Health Hematology Oncology
at Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

Katherine Malloy, Pharm.D, BCPPS

Neonatal Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
Department of Pharmacy
Medical University of South Carolina

Rita Ryan, M.D.

Professor
Chair of the Department of Pediatrics
Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

Elizabeth Schulz M.D., MHPE, FAAP

Director
Pediatrics, Neonatology
Department of Infant Formula Premarket Review Staff
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Alanna Shiflett, MSN, APRN, NNP-BC

Nurse Practitioner
Specialist in Neonatology
MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

Heidi Stefflik, M.D., MSCR

Associate Professor of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Associate
Program Director, Neonatal-Perinatal
Medicine Fellowship Program
Dr. Charles P. Darby Jr. Department of Pediatrics
Medical University of South Carolina

Sarah Taylor, M.D., MSCR

Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Pediatrics
Director of Clinical Research,
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Professor, Chronic Disease Epidemiology
Yale School of Medicine

Lauren Thompson, D.O.

Director of Genetic Inpatient Services
and the Rapid Sequencing Program
Medical University of South Carolina
Vice Chair of the Education/ & Continuing Professional
Development Committee for the American College of Medical
Genetics and Genomics (ACMG)

MikaelAnn Worsham, D.O.

Neonatology-Perinatal Medicine Fellow
Medical University of South Carolina



CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

The need for evidenced-based practice in neonatology is increasingly important as clinical decisions and treatments are made. The conference is designed to help NICU professionals including physicians, advanced practice providers, nurse managers and experienced staff nurses make those decisions. The goal of the conference is to share evidence based approaches in the care of the neonate.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

In addition to virtual attendance for the conference, in-person attendance at the The Hyatt Place will be offered. The in-person attendance will be offered on a first come, first serve basis until conference capacity is reached.

REGISTRATION FEES

	Early	Regular
In-person Attendance	\$500	\$550
Wednesday & Thursday Attendance	\$225	\$250
Friday Attendance	\$150	\$160
Virtual Attendance	\$550	\$600
Wednesday & Thursday Attendance (V)	\$250	\$275
Friday Attendance (V)	\$165	\$175

Early registration fees apply if registration is received on or before August 29, 2026.

The fee for in-person attendance includes tuition, breaks, online syllabus and certificates of attendance. The fee for live streaming the meeting includes tuition, online syllabus, and certificates of attendance.

Please make your check payable to Medical University of South Carolina and mail with the registration form included in this brochure to: Monica Conetta, MUSC Office of CME, 96 Jonathan Lucas Street, HE601, MSC 754, Charleston, SC 29425.

ACCESS TO RECORDED PRESENTATIONS

The MUSC Office of CME, with the permission of each speaker, will be recording each presentation of the conference. The videos will be posted online after the conference and be available for those who are not able to live stream the entire conference. Viewing the videos will offer the same amount of CME credit and can be viewed for up to 14 days following the posting date. The *non-refundable* fee for this service is \$150.00 and is only available to individuals registered for the conference. **Access to the videos will be granted to registered attendees who purchase this option in advance of the conference.**

Credit Designation: The Medical University of South Carolina designates this enduring material for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™ for each video. Physicians should only claim the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

CREDIT DESIGNATION

The Medical University of South Carolina designates this live activity for a maximum of **20.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)**™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Nursing Credit: This activity has been submitted to the South Carolina Nurses Association for approval to award contact hours. The South Carolina Nurses Association is accredited as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses: This continuing education activity awards a total of **20.00 PH** (pharmacology hours). Hours for controlled substances are 2.0.

ACCREDITATION

The Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

In accordance with the ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education anyone involved in planning or presenting this educational activity will be required to disclose any financial relationships with any ineligible companies. An ineligible company is any entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, reselling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. Any financial relationships with these ineligible companies have been mitigated by the MUSC Office of CME. Speakers who incorporate information about off-label or investigational use of drugs or devices will be asked to disclose that information at the beginning of their presentation.

REGISTRATION METHODS

(Please use ONE of these methods to register. Do not mail if previously faxed or telephoned).

- **Mail** registration form with check made out to "Medical University of South Carolina" or credit card information to: Monica Conetta, Office of CME, Medical University of South Carolina, 96 Jonathan Lucas Street, HE 601, MSC 754, Charleston, SC, 29425
- **Telephone:** (843) 876-1925 – Registration by credit card only
- **Fax:** (843) 876-1931 – Registration by credit card only
- **Online:** <https://muscloud-cme.com>





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COURSE AGENDA At the end of each presentation, learners should be better able to achieve the respective objectives stated.

Monday, November 9, 2026

- 7:00am Registration/Breakfast/Exhibits
- 7:25 Login for Virtual Attendance
- 7:30 **Parents of Stakeholders in NICU Infant Feeding Decisions**
Sarah Taylor, M.D.
Determine evidence-based methods of preterm infant fortification and how to work with families to achieve their feeding goals.
- 8:30 **What's Happening Now with Nows/NAS and Neonatal Iatrogenic Withdrawal?**
Deborah Bondi, Pharm.D.
Compare outcomes with Eat-Sleep-Console (ESC) with traditional neonatal opioid withdrawal (NOW)/neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) management. Discuss practical barriers to ESC implementation. Evaluate treatment options and considerations for non-opioid NAS. Discuss management of iatrogenic drug withdrawal in neonates, including scoring tools and conversions between agents.
- 9:30 **BREAK/Exhibits**
- 10:00 **Calcium, Phosphorous, and Vitamin D for Preterm Infant Bone Health and Beyond**
Sarah Taylor, M.D.
Identify the calcium, phosphorus, and vitamin D needs of preterm infants and evidence based methods to provide the required supplementation.
- 11:00 **Neonatal PK/PD Applications in Unique Scenarios**
Deborah Bondi, Pharm.D.
Explain basic pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamic (PD) properties and how they apply to neonates. Analyze how PK/PD are altered in 11:00 unique settings, including: Extracorporeal life support (ECLS), Therapeutic hypothermia (TH) Acute kidney injury (AKI), Renal replacement therapies (RRT)
- 12:00pm **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:30 **Micro Preemies: Navigating Pharmacology at the Limits of Viability.**
Christy Baxter, DNP
Explain pathophysiology of various clinical ailments in micro preemie infants Identify evidence-based treatment methods available for disease processes associated with extreme prematurity. Discuss the importance of preventative care in reducing disease risk among micro preemies. Identify other pharmacologic options available for micro preemie infants. Describe future research and potentially better practices
- 2:30 **Calming the Irritable Infant: Managing Hypertonicity and Neuro-Irritability in the NICU,***Cara Arpey, D.O.*
Differentiate common causes of hypertonicity and neuro-irritability in neonates and infants in the NICU. Describe key components of a multidisciplinary assessment, incorporating observations from nurses, therapists, and caregivers to characterize tone abnormalities and irritability. Compare the indications, mechanisms of action, dosing considerations, and adverse effects of commonly used medications for neuro-irritability and hypertonicity, including benzodiazepines, gabapentin, and clonidine. Apply a practical framework for selecting pharmacologic interventions based on clinical presentation and patient-specific factors. Develop an individualized management plan for infants with hypertonicity and neuro-irritability that integrates medication therapy with non-pharmacologic and rehabilitative strategies.
- 3:30 **BREAK/Exhibits**
- 3:45 **Anti-Obesity Medication Use in the Peri and Postpartum Period**
Lisa Bystry, M.D.
Define AOM Generations and Discuss Pharmacology. Analyze exposure Data thus Far. Compare Maternal & Neonatal Outcomes Describe Lactation Changes. Recognize Long Term Outcomes.
- 4:45 **Adjourn for the Day**

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

- 7:00am Registration/Breakfast/Exhibits
- 7:25 Login for Virtual Attendance
- 7:30 **Heavy Metals in Infant Nutrition**
Elizabeth Schulz, M.D.
Review lead, cadmium, mercury, and arsenic exposure in neonatal food sources (i.e., the contaminant data that's coming out publicly this month), examine FDA's Closer to Zero and Operation Stork Speed initiatives (as it relates to toxic elements and contaminants), and analyze nutritional interventions that modulate heavy metal absorption through competitive inhibition and other pharmacological mechanisms.
- 8:30 **Pathway for Diagnosing Bleeding Disorders**
Ashley Eason, M.D.
Define the key laboratory parameters used to evaluate neonatal hemostasis including PT, aPTT, fibrinogen, and platelet count, and describe how normal reference ranges differ in neonates compared to older adults. Explain the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of the most common congenital and acquired bleeding disorders encountered in the neonatal period including hemophilia, vitamin K deficiency bleeding, and neonatal thrombocytopenia. Discuss a systematic diagnostic approach to the bleeding neonate.
- 9:30 **BREAK/Exhibits**
- 10:00 **Beyond the Bovine: Comparing Goat vs. Cow Milk Proteins in Neonatal Nutrition**
Elizabeth Schulz, M.D.
Compare the properties of goat milk-based versus cow milk-based infant formula products, examine the regulatory pathway for novel ingredients under the Infant Formula Act, and evaluate clinical evidence demonstrating safety and tolerance profiles.
- 11:00 **Hot off the Press: Publications in 2024-2026 with Potential Change Neonatal Practice: Part 1**
Heidi Steflik, M.D.
Explore findings from top articles in Neonatology from 2025-2026. Discuss opportunities for improvements in neonatal care or further study based on findings from top articles
- 12:00pm **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:15 **Hot off the Press: Publications in 2024-2026 with Potential Change Neonatal Practice: Part 2**
Heidi Steflik, M.D.
Explore findings from top articles in Neonatology from 2025-2026. Discuss opportunities for improvements in neonatal care or further study based on findings from top articles
- 2:15 **Less Invasive Surfactant Administration (LISA) and Premedication Options**
Mikael Ann Worsham, Neonatology-Perinatology Fellow
Explain the biochemical composition and physiological mechanisms of exogenous surfactants, detailing how their unique protein-lipid profiles impact lung compliance and surface tension reduction. Outline the step-by-step procedural technique for executing LISA, Compare the clinical outcomes, including rates of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) and mechanical ventilation, of (LISA) versus traditional endotracheal intubation and surfactant delivery. Analyze the pharmacodynamic impact of specific sedative and analgesic classes (such as opioids, benzodiazepines, and propofol) on the neonatal central nervous system and respiratory drive, with a specific focus on maintaining spontaneous breathing. Differentiate between the various premedication regimens (including sedatives, analgesics, and vagolytics) regarding their efficacy, safety profiles, and impact on spontaneous respiration during the LISA procedure.
- 3:15 **BREAK/Exhibits**

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COURSE AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 (continued)

- 3:30 **Colostrum for the Critically ill Neonate: a Pharmacologic Perspective**
Katherine Chetta, M.D.
Explain why colostrum is more like a medicine than a food. Describe how colostrum can be administered to critically ill infants. Recall the positive neonatal outcomes attributed to receiving colostrum.
- 4:30 **High Expectations: Understanding Delta 9 (THC) and Kratom and Neonatal Effects**, Jessica Benes, NNP
Describe the difference between THC (Delta 9) and Kratom. Identify the current evidence regarding the short- and long-term neonatal effects associated with prenatal exposure to THC and kratom. Recognize the clinical signs and symptoms that may be observed in neonates exposed to THC or kratom in utero. Apply evidence-based approaches for the clinical management and monitoring of infants with suspected prenatal exposure to THC or kratom. Discuss the current legal implications of THC and kratom use in pregnancy. Explain the impact of THC on breastfeeding
- 5:30 **Adjourn for the Day**

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

- 7:00am **Registration/Breakfast**
- 7:30 **Sedation and Analgesia in Preterm Neonates: Old and New Information for the Young and Small**
Katie Malloy, PharmD, BCPPS
Describe common agents, dosing regimens, and features of pain and sedation agents for preterm neonates. Design a pain and sedation regimen for a preterm neonate. Explain the potential role of dexmedetomidine in preterm neonates. Discuss optimal situations for pain and sedation medications and potential collateral damage from early exposure to these agents.
- 8:30 **Acute Management of Metabolic Disorders**
Lauren Thompson, D.O.
Describe the core principles of acute metabolic management in patients with inborn errors of metabolism. Identify appropriate acute management strategies for the major categories of inborn errors of metabolism. Differentiate between therapeutic approaches, including nutritional interventions, cofactor supplementation, and pharmacologic therapies.
- 9:30 **BREAK/Exhibits**
- 9:45 **Mystery Case: Piecing It Together**
Alanna Shiflett, MSN, APRN, NNP-BC
Discuss usual presentation for this disease process. Define the physical and laboratory findings. Define the diagnostic criteria for the disease process. Explain treatment for this condition.
- 10:45 **How Bougie is BUGI: Beside Upper GI and Care Pathway for Bilious Emesis**
Rita Ryan M.D.
Describe the approach to Management of bilious emesis in a neonate. Explain how a bedside upper GI study can be beneficial.
- 11:45 **Mid-Morning Break/Exhibits**
- 12:00pm **Apnea of Prematurity and Intermittent Hypoxemia**
Rita Ryan, M.D.
Compare the current state of knowledge regarding Apnea of Prematurity vs. Intermittent Hypoxemia. Describe the associations with Intermittent Hypoxemia and later morbidities in the premature infant.
- 1:00pm **Adjourn until 2027 (November 8-10, 2027 at The Hyatt Place)**

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Hyatt Hotel Historic District

560 King Street
Charleston, SC 29403
(843) 414-4900

Nestled in the heart of Charleston's Upper King Historic District between the Restaurant District and Museum Row, Hyatt Place Charleston/Historic District offers a rooftop bar, restaurants, and exceptional service close to some of the most popular things to do in Charleston. Return to our spacious rooms to relax and spend a beautiful evening at our rooftop bar offering more than 40 craft beers and stunning city views. The Hyatt Place Charleston/Historic District has all the amenities you need for a luxurious stay. Special group rates start at **\$249.00**, plus tax, and destination fee per night. A limited number of guest rooms have been reserved and are being offered on a first come, first serve basis. The room block will be held until **Thursday, October 8, 2026** however the room block may be filled prior to this date. In such a case, neither the group rate nor guest room availability can be guaranteed. Therefore, we recommend you make your reservation as soon as possible. Reservations can be made by calling 877-803-7534 and identifying yourself as a participant in this meeting, or by following the online directions below

Online Booking Link: <https://tinyurl.com/Neonatal2026online>

Online Booking Code: G-NPHC

Parking: Valet parking at the hotel is available at \$49.00 plus tax, per day and can be added to your guest folio. In addition, self-parking is available at the public garage. See CME website for rates. Rates are subject to change

CANCELLATIONS

A refund will be made upon written request prior to October 9, 2026; however, \$100 will be retained for administrative costs. No refunds will be made after October 9, 2026. We reserve the right to cancel the program if necessary. Full registration fees will be refunded for canceled programs. **By registering for this conference, you agree to this cancellation policy.**

ELECTRONIC SYLLABUS

The conference syllabus will be provided online. Information will be emailed to you the week prior to the conference so that you may download a copy.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

It is the policy of the Medical University of South Carolina not to discriminate against any person on the basis of disabilities. If you feel you need services or the auxiliary aids mentioned in this act in order to fully participate in this continuing education activity, please call the Office of Continuing Medical Education at (843) 876-1925, or attach a note to your registration.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit <https://muscloud-cme.com>, call the Office of CME at (843) 876-1925, or email conetta@muscc.edu.

REGISTRATION FORM

Neonatal Pharmacology Conference 2026

Incorporating Evidence-Based Practice into Clinical Decision Making

November 9-11, 2026

By Registering for this conference, you acknowledge and agree to the cancellation policy stated in this brochure.

Name _____ Personal ID# XXX - XX -
As you would like it printed on your name badge. Please use the last four digits of your SSN

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Specialty _____ Degree/Credentials _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Business Fax (_____) _____ - _____

Email _____
Please use the email address you check most regularly to ensure receipt of all CME Credit emails.

☐ I do not want my name included on a list of participants to be included in handouts at the conference.

Registration Fees

	Early Bird Fees Received on or by 8/29/2026	Regular Fees Received after 8/29/2026
In-Person Attendance (Full Conference)	☐ \$500	☐ \$550
Virtual Attendance (Full Conference)	☐ \$550	☐ \$600
Daily In-Person Attendance Monday	☐ \$225	☐ \$250
Daily Virtual Attendance Monday	☐ \$250	☐ \$275
Daily In-Person Attendance Tuesday	☐ \$225	☐ \$250
Daily Virtual Attendance Tuesday	☐ \$250	☐ \$275
Daily In-Person Attendance Wednesday	☐ \$150	☐ \$160
Daily Virtual Attendance Wednesday	☐ \$165	☐ \$175

Access to Recorded Presentations*

☐ Yes, I would like access to the recorded videos for an additional fee of \$150.00

☐ No, I do not want access to the recorded videos for an additional fee of \$150.00

* The videos will be posted online after the conference. Viewing the videos will offer the same amount of CME credit and can be viewed for up to 14 days following the posting date

Payment must accompany registration:

☐ Check Payable to Medical University of South Carolina ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Cardholder's Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

CVV Security Code _____

The fee for in-person attendance includes tuition, breaks, online syllabus, and certificates of attendance. The fee for live streaming the meeting includes tuition, online syllabus, and certificates of attendance.

Please direct any inquiries to Monica Conetta, Office of CME 843.876.1925 or conetta@musc.edu

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