

President's Page

Indian Academy of Pediatrics and National Neonatology Forum—Areas of Partnership

The Indian Academy of Pediatrics and the National Neonatology Forum of India have been working in the field of Child Health and Newborn Care in India for last many decades in various ways. Their main areas of thrust are advocacy and training, in neonatal care and Optimal Infant feeding practices, through jointly organized scientific programs like Conferences, CMEs, Symposia, and Updates. Two major areas of work have been observation of National Newborn week and World Breastfeeding Week by individual state and city branches of IAP and NNF.

The goals and concerns of the two organizations have been largely common *i.e.*, improving child survival with special emphasis on neonatal survival. A great number of life members of the two organizations are also common. However, the status and quality of neonatal and child health remains unsatisfactory in India, and therefore the two organizations resolve to consolidate their ongoing partnership by looking at newer objectives and methods to improve the existing status of neonatal and child health in India.

Objectives

1. To work towards achievement of the goals set by the GOI in the 10th five year plan pertaining to neonatal health *i.e.*,
 - (a) Reduction of Infant Mortality Rate to 30 per 1000 live births by the end of the year 2007.
 - (b) Reduction of Neonatal Mortality Rate to 20 per 1000 live births by the end of the year 2007.
2. To improve the quality of neonatal and childhood survival through several methods, including developmental surveillance.

Methods

1. To conduct countrywide workshops / update in areas of Neonatal Advanced Life support and Pediatric Advanced Life support, Neonatal ventilation, NICU monitoring, and Infant and young child feeding practices. NNF and IAP would certify these activities jointly.
2. To lay a special emphasis on developmental assessment of infants, through preparation of a developmental assessment module, and encouraging the establishment of developmental assessment departments in institutes and private facilities.
3. To coordinate with the departments of pediatrics and neonatology in medical colleges, seeking their involvement for the fulfillment of objectives outlined above.
4. To promote rational drug therapy in neonatology, which will be manifested by the creation of a neonatal drug formulary, which would be a part of the Pediatric drug formulary being evolved by IAP.
5. To collaborate with NGOs and professional bodies like FOGSI, IMA, BPNI for furtherance and wider outreach of programs for neonatal and child health.
6. The official publications of the two

organizations would highlight the common programs to be undertaken in joint partnership for percolation to all members.

7. To conduct sensitization and advocacy workshops for adolescents in schools and colleges, in neonatal care and Infant feeding.
8. To conduct Optimal Infant and young child feeding, and neonatal care workshops for the general community.
9. To collaborate with agencies like NACO,

M. K. C. Nair,
President, Indian Academy of Pediatrics

Unicef, and others in the areas of Pediatric HIV and prevention of perinatal mother to child transmission (PMTCT).

10. To continue with, improve upon, and widen the scope of the celebrations of World Breastfeeding and Newborn weeks through state, and city branches of NNF and IAP, with active involvement of institutes and private practitioners.
11. To jointly conduct operational research in areas of priority.

Armida Fernandez,
President, National Neonatology Forum