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CenteringPregnancy® in the Lower Hudson Valley

By Joanne Murphy, CNM, MSN

CenteringPregnancy® is an innovative model of prenatal care, providing all aspects of care in a group setting (8-10 women) led by two facilitators and has been implemented in over 200 sites nationwide as well as in Canada, Australia and South Africa. The study “Group Prenatal Care and Perinatal Outcomes: A Randomized Controlled Trial” (Obstetrics and Gynecology 110:3 (August 2007) pp 330-339), as reported in the last issue of Perinatal Gazette, demonstrated remarkable improvements in outcomes for young women enrolled in group prenatal care, including a 33% reduction in preterm birth rate overall, and a 41% reduction in preterm births for African-American women. CenteringPregnancy® sites in the Lower Hudson Valley and greater New York City area include: Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Montefiore Medical Center Family Care, and Bronx Health Center for Children and Families.

Currently, the research team at Yale University, directed by Jeanette Ickovics, PhD, has teamed up with Clinical Directors Network in New York City and Centering Healthcare Institute in Cheshire, CT, to study CenteringPregnancy®'s effectiveness in a large study of young women in the greater New York City area. In the study, a specially designed CenteringPregnancy® “Plus” model adds extensive STI and HIV prevention interventions to the basic Centering model of group prenatal care, building on previously reported effectiveness of education. By Jeanne Murphy, CNM, MSN

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Continued from pg. 1 – CenteringPregnancy®

Dr. Frank Manning has joined the department of OB/GYN at Westchester Medical Center Hospital. Dr. Manning is a highly regarded figure in perinatal medicine who has a career distinguished by defining the use of biophysical profiles and in fetal diagnosis.

Dr. Manning will be seeing patients for Perinatology consultations, 1st & 2nd trimester genetic screening, fetal anatomic surveys and CVs (Chorionic Villus Sampling).

Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network (LHVPN)

The Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network (LHVPN) is very pleased to announce that Heather Brumberg, MD, MPH, and lead author on behalf of the LHVPN’s “Healthy From Birth For Life” project (http://www.lhvpn.net/hfbfl.shtml), has received the Research Award presented by the National Perinatal Association at its 2007 Annual Clinical Conference that was held in New Orleans, LA. The award was for her team’s abstract entitled, “Youth Knowledge of Unhealthy Lifestyle Choices and Obesity Vary by Gender and Behavior.” The abstract presented the results of the market research that was conducted as part of this Social Health Marketing project. In addition to Dr. Brumberg, the Healthy From Birth For Life project team connected with this level of the project consists of Bonnie Reyna, MPH, Project Manager, and Cheryl Hunter-Grant, Executive Director (LHVPN), Dorothy Faulkner, PhD, and V. Allen, MPH (New York Medical College School of Public Health).

The LHVPN had four abstracts accepted for poster presentations at the 2007 NPA conference.

- **The Efficacy of Employing the Great American Smokeout Model When Adapted for Perinatal Mood Disorders as ‘Community Health Education Day’** (http://www.lhvpn.net/ched.shtml) Rebecca Moretto, BS, CHES; Cheryl Hunter-Grant, LMSW; Heather L. Brumberg, MD, MPH, FAAP

- **The Efficacy of an Educational Program Addressing Newborn Abandonment** (http://www.lhvpn.net/meetingspres.shtml, see 4/19/05 conference) Bonnie Reyna, MPH; Cheryl Hunter-Grant, LMSW; Paul Visintainer, PhD; Heather Brumberg, MD, MPH

- **Does the Efficacy of a Regional Perinatal Forum Change Over Time?** (http://www.lhvpn.net/mmeetingspres.shtml, see 10/19/05 and 11/1/06 conferences) Bonnie Reyna, MPH; Donna Dozuor, RN, MS; Cheryl Hunter-Grant, LMSW; Susan Marchwinski, RNC, MS; Clare Nugent, RN; Paul Visintainer, PhD; Heather Brumberg, MD, MPH, FAAP

We continue to work “to ensure every pregnancy is healthy and wanted, and all women and families receive the support and services they need in a respectful environment.”

SAVE THE DATE

The 31st Annual Meetings of the New York Perinatal Society will take place on Monday, May 19, 2008, from 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm. The keynote speaker will be Benjamin P. Sachs, MD, The Doty Distinguished Professor, Senior Vice President of Tulane University & Dean of the School of Medicine, who will talk about “Team Training: Improving Patient Safety and Reducing Litigation.” For more information, please contact Dr. Sergio G. Golombok, NYPY President, at Sergio.golombok@nymc.edu or Christiana Joseph, Secretary, at Joseph29@nymc.edu.

Sound Shore Medical Center

Congratulations to Drs. Patricia A. Devine and Kevin L. Meacham as new Acting Co-Chairs of Maternity Services at Sound Shore Medical Center.

Sound Shore Medical Center (SSMC) in New Rochelle is a NYS Department of Health designated Level III Perinatal hospital, providing services for complex, at-risk obstetrical patients and Neonatal Intensive Care for medically fragile newborns. SSMC’s maternity department features a dedicated Antepartum Testing Laboratory – designated a center of excellence in First Trimester Screening – for fetal surveillance. It also provides private, semi private, as well as deluxe amenities-rich suites, specially trained nurses, and dedicated staff. Functioning under the direction of recently named acting co-chairs: Patricia A. Devine, MD, and Kevin L. Meacham, MD, Sound Shore’s maternity services expertly provide for the needs of mom and newborn, alike.

Dr. Devine received her medical degree from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as Maternal-Fetal Medicine. She is clinical associate professor at New York Medical College.

Dr. Meacham received his medical degree from the New York Medical College. He is past president of the Sound Shore Medical Center Medical Board and Westchester OG/GYN Society. He is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and is in private practice in Larchmont.

Maternal-Infant Services Network of Orange, Sullivan, & Ulster Counties, INC.

**March 25** - Epilepsy and Pregnancy, Kingston Hospital

**March 27** - Newburgh APPS Community Council Meeting, Newburgh

**March 28 & 29** - Youth Conference, Orange Community College, Middletown

**April 2** - Making Healthy Decisions Conference, Fishkill Holiday Inn

**April 12** - Parenting Celebration, Port Jervis Middle School

**April 18** - Perinatal Mood Disorders Training, Sullivan County Community College

**May 2** - Perinatal Mood Disorders Training, Orange County

**May 3** - Women’s Health Expo, Tech City, Kingston

**May 6** - Mid-Hudson LAC Annual Perinatal Conference, Accord Inn’s Pier 9

For more information, please contact MSN at 845-928-7448