

Asociación Colombiana de Neonatología Medellín Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

Simulation trainings multiply regional impact of
"helping save lives" for neonates and mothers



Colombia, South America/Nashville, Tennessee, USA

In February 2010, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt partnered with the Colombian Neonatal Association (CNA) in Bucaramanga to provide an educational workshop utilizing the SimNewB® neonatal simulator. Finding value in additional education, the neonatologists requested neonatal resuscitation training sessions for their nursing coworkers.

In partnership with the CNA and Laerdal, the Vanderbilt team (Neonatologist Dr. Mario Rojas; Clinical Nurse Specialist, Division of Neonatology, Mary Lee Lemley, RN, MSN; Clinical Nurse Educator, Division of Neonatology, Cheryl Major, RNC-NIC, BSN) created two training sessions featuring Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) guidelines, standards for care of neonates, and certifications for medical staff.



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Birthing simulators used to train both lay people and medical professionals to become regional instructors

Since 2010, the MamaNatalie™ birthing simulator has been used in many underdeveloped countries where people have little access to trained medical professionals. MamaNatalie, a washable abdomen, comes with NeoNatalie®, a term-size baby used to teach and practice resuscitation techniques. Instructors move the baby through an attachable birth canal using a variety of realistic scenarios (contractions, blood discharge, baby positions, etc.).



"Of the 47 regional educators trained in Colombia in August, 70% were doctors and 30% nurses. People were amazed and fascinated with the presentations and offered many ovations," said Juan Carlos Alonso, Territory Manager Andean, Laerdal Medical. Twenty-five MamaNatalie and 25 NeoNatalie simulators were contributed for training and subsequent in-community use; the team also utilized Simply NRP™ Kits and a hi-fi

scenario using the SimNewB® neonatal simulator. Organizers requested that Lemley return in September 2011 to train 79 regional educators at the National Nursing Conference. In spring 2012, she will train rural birthing assistants (similar to US lay and nursing midwives, i.e., with no formal medical training).

Regional trainings help to establish a support system to disseminate knowledge

Lemley places pins on a map to track completed trainings. "I'd like to offer educational sessions all over the country, giving all neonatal nurses and neonatologists in Colombia an opportunity to learn more. If you teach a class and do not provide learners with the credentialing to teach others, the education dies with the class. If you train learners to become instructors, knowledge grows by multitudes and a support system is created to continue

the work," said Lemley. To illustrate the multiplying effect, she noted that if 25 educators instruct ten people each month for a year, 3,000 people will be trained. If each of those trainees sees just ten babies, trained staff will touch 360,000 babies.

Enthusiasm for the educational program is very high. "When we told them they could keep and use the equipment, they cried and said, 'Thank you so much for caring about our babies when you have so many of your own'. Now that they have the equipment to use, they have trained 427 in one month," said Lemley, who stays in touch via email and monthly monitoring to ensure trainee numbers remain strong.

US medical teams find clear advantages in using MamaNatalie™ birthing simulators

It is anticipated that the MamaNatalie™ units will also be well received by US hospitals, nursing staff and residency teams, especially in rural and multicultural communities. The birthing simulator gives birth to the NeoNatalie baby, and is available in white and dark brown skin models. The affordable compact simulator has no electrical components and it is immersible, making it very effective for water birth trainings, areas without electricity (Amish/Mennonite communities), and for smaller medical facilities.

"Community hospitals that deliver only a few babies a month need simulation training as much as, or more than, bigger hospitals," said Lemley. "Using MamaNatalie and NeoNatalie, medical workers can learn how to give newborns the start they need in life."

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- Mary Lee Lemley, RN, MSN
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Division of Neonatology,
Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

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Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

Listed among "America's Best Hospitals" (U.S. News and World Report), Vanderbilt and its 222-bed Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital is one of the nation's seven pediatric "Top Hospitals." It is a premier teaching facility dedicated to training the next generation of healthcare professionals. For more information, visit www.childrenshospital.vanderbilt.org

Colombian Neonatal Association

The Colombian Neonatal Association, founded in 1999, is a non-profit organization and a Chapter of the Colombian Pediatric Association. Its mission is to integrate Neonatal specialists into healthcare provision, and to generate knowledge through education and research in order to strengthen maternal and neonatal outcomes. For more information visit www.ascon.org.co

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