



# EHDI E-MAIL EXPRESS

*This is an e-mail communication from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) "Improving the Effectiveness of Newborn Hearing Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention through the Medical Home" project funded through cooperative agreements with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). It is designed to provide AAP Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Chapter Champions with resources and current clinical and other information. The EHDI E-Mail Express is sent on a monthly basis. Please feel free to share the EHDI E-Mail Express with colleagues working on or interested in childhood hearing detection and intervention issues. Distribution information appears on the last page.*

## JULY 2011

### In this issue:

- Message from your Chair
- Upcoming Events
- Secondhand Smoke Linked to Hearing Loss
- WHO report on NBH and Developing Countries
- PEHDIC Program on Facebook
- Texting to Prevent Birth Defects
- NICHQ Hearing Collaborative Update
- 2009 CDC EHDI Data
- Words of Inspiration

## FROM YOUR CHAIR



It's that time again—the call for proposals is out for the next exciting National EHDI Conference. Every year we have an opportunity to shape this conference and to make it even more robust than the year past. And, every year, I look forward to the time when abstract submission opens.

As we all know, the EHDI Conference is very unique in nature. In its 11th year, it has built a strong reputation for bringing together a wide variety of attendees including those who: work in state EHDI programs; assist in EHDI efforts on the federal level; provide screening, diagnostic and early intervention support at the state/ local level to young children with hearing loss and their families; champion medical home activities within each state; are parents of children with hearing loss; or are deaf or hard-of-hearing adults who are helping to expand opportunities for young children with hearing loss.

Since 2001, the EHDI Conference has provided key stakeholders an opportunity to identify areas of concern, promote collaboration, and share best practices. Join with other professionals and parents intent on improving early hearing screening, diagnosis, and intervention systems for infants/young children and their families.

Each year the conference planning committee and co-sponsors work hard to make this conference as relevant and productive as possible for the attendees. One of the ways of ensuring this is by offering participants the opportunity to get involved and submit abstracts. If you feel there is a need for more sessions on a topic or would like to see a greater emphasis on a particular issue, I encourage you to submit an abstract. If you have not submitted an abstract before, I urge you to utilize this opportunity for professional growth by submitting a session proposal for this national conference.

AAP staff ([fkhan@aap.org](mailto:fkhan@aap.org)) is available to assist in writing abstracts for Chapter Champions that may have ideas but limited time/resources to prepare and submit a full abstract. And don't forget your regional Task Force members. Be sure to reach out to them to brainstorm ideas and/or collaborate on writing an abstract.

Abstract submission for the 2012 Annual National EHDI Conference is now open for breakout and poster sessions. **The deadline for receipt of abstracts is Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at midnight (EST).** Be sure to submit yours as soon as possible.

[Click here to view guidelines for abstract submission](#)

[Click here to create an account and submit your abstract now](#)

Albert Mehl MD

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Details
Diagnostics and Amplification for Infants and Toddlers	August 17–20, 2011	Philadelphia, PA	<a href="#">Web site</a>
EHDI Partnering for Progress Conference	October 26-28, 2011	Raleigh, NC	<a href="#">Web site</a>
2012 National EHDI Conference	March 5-6, 2012	St. Louis, MO	<a href="#">Web site</a>

## ANOTHER DANGER OF SECONDHAND SMOKE—HEARING LOSS

A study published in the July 2011 issue of *Archives of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery*, conducted by the NYU School of Medicine researchers reports that exposure to tobacco smoke nearly doubles the risk of hearing loss among adolescents. While the risks of secondhand smoke are well known and documented, such as heart disease, lung cancer, respiratory ailments, etc, this is the first study to link secondhand smoke to hearing loss.



More than 1,500 teenagers (selected from the 2005-2006 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey) aged 12 to 19 participated in the nationwide study. The teenagers were initially evaluated in their homes and then were given extensive hearing tests and blood tests for the chemical cotinine, a metabolite of nicotine, at a medical center. The teens exposed to secondhand smoke, as measured by the metabolite in their blood, were more likely to have sensorineural hearing loss—the type of hearing loss that tends to occur with increased age or among children born with congenital deafness—which is most often caused by problems with the cochlea.

“The study found that teenagers exposed to smoke performed worse across every sound frequency tested, especially mid-to-high frequencies important for understanding speech. In addition, teenagers with higher cotinine levels, indicating greater exposure, were more likely to have one-sided or unilateral low-frequency hearing loss. Overall, the researchers conclude that their findings indicate that “tobacco smoke is independently associated with an almost 2-fold increase in the risk of hearing loss among adolescents.” While all children born in the US are screened for hearing loss, this study underscores the importance of regularly screening children who are exposed to secondhand smoke. Read the full story at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/231292.php>.

## ABSTRACT OF THE NEW WHO REPORT ON NEWBORN AND INFANT HEARING SCREENING AND IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



World Health Organization

“The Report summarizes the outcome of a recent informal consultation convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2009 pursuant to the 1995 resolution of the World Health Assembly (WHA) urging Member States to promote programs for early hearing detection in babies and infants. The consultation was geared towards reaching global consensus on key principles on this subject based on the experiences and contributions of leading experts from various world regions and across relevant disciplines. After reviewing the current evidence on early hearing detection in babies and infants the Report outlined guiding principles for action by Member States covering issues such as etiology, case definition of hearing impairment, options for screening, program implementation, cost-effectiveness as well as policy and legislation. The need for context-specific adaptations of current practices in the developed world to facilitate the development of effective and culturally appropriate early hearing detection programs in developing countries was emphasized. The potential role of private-public partnerships including non-governmental organizations in designing and implementing hearing screening programs was highlighted while recognizing the necessity to develop requisite support services for infants detected with hearing impairment. Overall, the Report is likely to stimulate greater interest and progress towards early hearing detection initiatives particularly in countries where necessary actions are yet to be taken to implement the WHA resolution. However, any effort in this direction must be backed by greater professional engagement, appropriate national policies and strong involvement of WHO regional offices in developing countries.”

## THE AAP PROGRAM TO ENHANCE THE HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT OF INFANTS & CHILDREN (PEHDIC) IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!



The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Program to Enhance the Health & Development of Infants & Children (PEHDIC), a 5-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, is pleased to announce the launch of a Facebook page at <http://tiny.cc/jpcbn>. Please show your support and select the "Like" option on this page to have the latest news, information, and resources related to PEHDIC and its partners delivered straight to your Facebook account's news feed. Information will be shared on such topics as: early hearing detection and intervention, newborn screening,

neuromotor screening, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and congenital heart defects - just to name a few! Please help us spread the word about PEHDIC by sharing the Facebook page with your friends and colleagues!

## TEXTING TO PREVENT BIRTH DEFECTS

Not all birth defects can be prevented; however, a woman can increase her chances of having a healthy baby by taking some easy steps. To help women remember those steps, the Prevention Research Team at NCBDDD has developed a health campaign using mobile text messages. Read more about the campaign, and how women can sign up for the text messages, on the [CDC home page](#) feature and share it with your colleagues, family and friends.



## REDUCING LTF/D: UPDATE ON NICHQ HEARING SCREENING COLLABORATIVE



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is working with the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) for a fourth round of learning collaboratives with a goal to decrease loss to follow-up in newborn hearing screening programs. The first learning session for this group was held in June in Minneapolis. The states participating in this session are Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Washington DC. If you are a chapter champion for one of these states, your state EHDI coordinator has probably already elicited your involvement as a member of their team.

Due to the early successes and lessons learned from the states who participated in the previous iterations of the NICHQ Newborn Hearing Screening Collaborative, the MCHB has supported state's participation in these collaboratives with the idea of having every state eventually completing quality improvement training and implementation.

The concept behind NICHQ activities is to use quality improvement methodology to identify effective strategies to improve progress towards the goals of 1-3-6. The collaborative efforts focus particular importance on loss-to-follow-up. By identifying strategies to improve the process, testing and refining these strategies, then expanding to broader areas within the state, we can reduce the overall rates of loss to follow-up. The other benefit of this methodology is that states can have some individualization of approaches related to their unique needs.

We will have updates on the NICHQ progress throughout the year in the EHDI express, but if you have questions about the NICHQ activities and how this relates to activities that the AAP is working on, feel free to contact Susan Wiley, MD, FAAP at [susan.wiley@cchmc.org](mailto:susan.wiley@cchmc.org) or visit NICHQ's website at: [http://www.nichq.org/our\\_projects/newborn\\_hearing.html](http://www.nichq.org/our_projects/newborn_hearing.html)

## 2009 CDC EHDI PROGRAM DATA NOW AVAILABLE

Summaries of the 2009 EHDI data are now available on the CDC web site. A national level summary is available along with state-by-state summaries of screening, diagnostic, and EI data. Follow the links below:


### Summary

[Summary of 2009 National EHDI Data](#) 

### Hearing Screening Data

[2009 Hearing Screening Summary](#) 

### Not Passing / Diagnosis Data

[2009 Diagnosis and Loss to Follow-up / Loss to Documentation Summary](#) 

### Early Intervention Data

[2009 Early Intervention Summary](#) 

### 2009 Survey Instrument

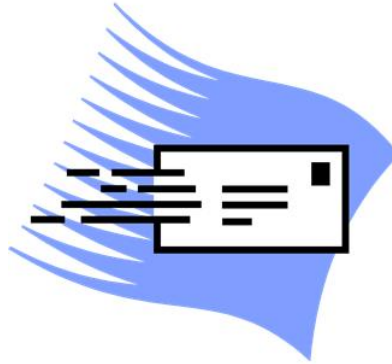
[2009 Survey](#) 

[2009 Survey Explanations](#) 

## WORDS OF INSPIRATION...



*There is no telling how many miles you will have to run chasing a dream.*  
- Author Unknown



***Distribution Information:***

*The AAP EHDI Program implementation staff send this e-mail update to the Academy's EHDI Chapter Champions, other interested AAP members, staff and state EHDI coordinators. For additional information on hearing screening and to access previous editions of the EHDI E-mail Express, click on the following link [http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/how/clinical\\_care/hearing\\_screening/](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/how/clinical_care/hearing_screening/). Previous e-mail updates are available upon request from Faiza Khan, [fkhan@aap.org](mailto:fkhan@aap.org) or (847) 434-4924. If you would like to unsubscribe to the update, please notify staff by responding to this e-mail.*