

17<sup>TH</sup> November, 2023

## From the desk of the President

Association of Neonatal Therapists congratulates Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research (MAHER), Chennai for taking the lead in organising the fifth Annual National Conference of Neonatal Therapy on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

We are honored and humbled to be associated with MAHER. MAHER'S vision is " To build a world-class institution, transforming society through value-based programs and healthcare advancements, leading to the all-round development of human resources, knowledge, innovation, entrepreneurship and research."

Tamil Nadu is a state that is rich in history, literature, and culture. The Tamil people live in the state, and their language is one of the world's oldest classical languages.

There are also numerous unique birth practices. The Namakarnam (naming festival) is the first ritual performed on the newborn after birth. Tamilnadu celebrates this event in great style. According to traditional custom (shastras), two types of names are given to children: "Vivahara nama" and "Ragasiya nama." These kinds of newborn-related rituals are many. and it represents our extensive and rich cultural history.



The World Health Organization recommends Kangaroo Mother Care for all babies on today's occasion of World Prematurity Day. For World Prematurity Day in 2023, "Small actions, BIG IMPACT: Immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere" is the worldwide theme. It has been demonstrated that skin-to-skin contact is very beneficial for all newborns, particularly those born prematurely.

Now it's time for the profession of Neonatal Therapy. *The art and science of integrating the infant's and family's normal development into the NICU environment is referred to as neonatal therapy.* Neonatal therapists are needed to provide basic risk-adjusted neuroprotective care, which includes protection, support, and age-appropriate stimulation to promote development.

Neonatal therapists must have advanced training and skills to ensure safe, effective, and evidence-based practice. *The Association Of Neonatal Therapists' vision* is to encourage the development of skilled and qualified Neonatal Therapists in India.



Before developing new neonatal therapy strategies, traditional knowledge and practises must be considered. A campaign aimed at providing new knowledge and reinforcing or clarifying prior knowledge about newborn care using information, education, and communication materials would be beneficial.

Given the current state of affairs in India, the organizing committee chose an appropriate theme for the conference.

## NEONATAL THERAPY : TOWARDS BETTER TOMMORROW

I am sure about this better tommorow is for everyone. It definitely includes the baby, the family, the community, the country, the profession and the entire world. We can reframe this theme in context of today's occasion as

> Timely Small actions, BIG IMPACT: Neonatal Therapy for every baby everywhere



In the near future, every eligible newborn and family in India should receive the appropriate support from neonatal therapists and other professionals.

I wish all of the event's stakeholders the best of luck in their efforts to make it a success. I am confident that it will have a long-term positive impact on society.



Nandgaonkar Hemant President Association of Neonatal Therapists