

A great #99nicuMeetup!

Stefan Johansson, MD, PhD and Francesco Cardona, MD, MSc



A few weeks ago, the 99nicu Community gathered in Copenhagen, for the Future of Neonatal Care Conference. Like the previous two conferences, this third occasion was also a success - the mean score for "how much did you enjoy the conference" was 4.6 on a 5-point scale! This positive feedback was only possible thanks to all Faculty members, delegates, and Partners bringing in a lot of positive energy.

Our vision with 99nicu is to make the world smaller by providing an independent platform for neonatal staff to share experience and expertise, beyond the limitations of geography and hierarchies. After all, newborn infants around the world are alike. Although our capabilities to act can be restrained by various aspects, we face similar clinical problems regardless of our contexts.

One of the great things about the Future of Neonatal Care conference in Copenhagen was to see our vision come to life. More than 200 people from 32 countries from all around the world met up and created a welcoming and un-prestigious at-

"Our Twitter account is @99nicu (<https://twitter.com/99nicu>). As in previous years, the hashtag is #99nicuMeetup (<https://twitter.com/hashtag/99nicumeetup>)"

mosphere.

This third conference built on the experiences from previous conferences, that interactivity is key for a good learning experience. We kept our lecture format of 45-minute slots, split into 30 minutes of lecture time and 15 minutes for discussion. Delegates used a smartphone app (sli.do) to give speakers feedback through polls and word clouds, and allowed sharing questions without having to line up for a microphone. The time for discussions was not always sufficient. The session around delayed cord clamping sparked around 30 delegate questions, some we had to leave without discussion and feedback.

Our mission with the conference was learning within a clinically relevant framework. Our topics included every-day-questions in the NICU, like blood transfusions, prevention of BPD, the role of high flow nasal cannula use, reduction of CLABSI rates, the challenges to diagnose seizures, how to reduce NEC by quality improvement, what inotrope to use when, and pain management. We also had sessions allowing for reflections about parental involvement in decision-making, and the medical and ethical aspects of periviability. One interesting point in the latter session was how differently we speak openly about dying



and death. For example, while Dutch delegates shared how it was natural for them to talk about suffering and “quality of death,” delegates from other countries shared how those questions could be regarded as more taboo.

If you want to get glimpses of the meeting, check out the Twitter hashtag #99nicuMeetup to find the live-feed of lectures. You are also able to view most lectures on our Youtube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY5s1ZlBmBaxox6Zi_v_e0Q).

What about plans for the Future of Neonatal Care conference? Given the fantastic feedback, we feel obliged and committed to put together a fourth conference in 2020. Moreover, we have preliminary plans about when and where. Keep updated by becoming a 99nicu member, and by following 99nicu on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

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Stefan Johansson

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Corresponding Author



*Stefan Johansson, MD, PhD
Consultant Neonatologist, Sachs' Children's Hospital
Associate Professor, Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm, Sweden
stefan.johansson@99nicu.org*



*Francesco Cardona, MD, MSc
Consultant, Medical University of Vienna
Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
Vienna, Austria
francesco@99nicu.org*

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