Overall summary and relevance to conference theme:
With advances in neonatal medicine that include life-extending medical innovation, more families are presenting to Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) and often for longer amounts of time. Pediatric psychologists who provide consultation-liaison (C/L) services in children’s hospitals report a growing frequency of referrals from the NICU. In the past decade, there has been an increasing focus on parental mental health in the NICU and its relationship to infant health and development, leading to increased calls for psychological services embedded in NICU settings (Hynan et al., 2015). C/L work in the NICU is challenging due to the medical complexity, prolonged hospital stays, and transition to new parenthood. Billing and documentation considerations can be challenging as the clinical focus is typically the infant-parent dyad or parental mental health in the context of the infant’s medical complications, rather than the infant as the identified patient. The goal of this workshop is to prepare practicing pediatric psychologists to more confidently respond to NICU consults and advocate for expanded pediatric psychology services in the NICU setting.

This workshop will have three main parts:
1. Attendees will learn about common medical conditions and treatments in the NICU and how these contribute to parental coping, family functioning, and the infant-parent dyadic relationship. Common referral concerns will be illustrated with videos, case examples, and small and large group discussion. There will be a specific focus on perinatal mental health concerns, including prevalence, course, and association with parenting behaviors, team interactions, and decision-making. Working with diverse families in the NICU will be discussed throughout this section.
2. Attendees will be provided with practical tools for C/L psychologists to use when responding to consults in the NICU. Various assessment approaches (semi-structured interviews, screening tools) and their interpretation will be discussed, as well as approaches to treatment planning and interventions. Attendees will practice the application of these skills through interactive case examples.
3. Although the infant is the identified medical patient in the NICU, the primary clinical activities are with adults (i.e. parents, family, and NICU staff). This section will focus on issues related to documentation of parental concerns in a baby’s chart, boundaries of care, and billing considerations. Attendees will be provided with samples of language for documentation and for providing rationale for billing with health behavior codes. Small group discussion will be used to explore implementation of these strategies.

Based on the content of this talk, participants will be able to:
1. Describe the key areas of clinical concern among infants in the NICU and their families, the role of the pediatric psychologist, and how family variables affect the health and well-being of high-risk infants.
2. Recognize the role of social determinants of health and diversity factors that present in NICU families and how they impact on course of treatment in the NICU.
3. Evaluate information gathered during a NICU consult to develop a relevant treatment plan and related strategies for intervention.
4. Summarize ethical and operational considerations related to psychology practice in the NICU, including documentation, billing, and focus of treatment.

Target Learner Level: Intermediate
Registration cap: 40 attendees

Presenters: Allison Dempsey, PhD, Amy Baughcum, PhD, Casey Hoffman, PhD, Rochelle Steinwurtzel, MSEd, PsyD

Presenters are 4 licensed clinical psychologists who provide services in NICUs and related settings and are leaders of a professional organization for NICU psychologists. They have 39 years of combined experience working with
high-risk infants and their families and practice in hospitals across the country. To facilitate learning, the presenters will adopt multimodal teaching techniques, including short didactic presentations to present content, videos, interactive case examples, and small and large group interactions. Attendees will leave the session with practical tools that will allow them to complete NICU consults in their organizations. This will include a sample protocol for responding to a NICU consult (with scripts for introducing the role of psychology), lists of assessment tools, recommendations for screening practices and workflow, and examples of language for documentation in electronic medical records.

**COI Statement:** None

**Session Date/Time:** Thursday, March 19th, 8:00am-10:30am

*The Society of Pediatric Psychology (Division 54 of the American Psychological Association) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Society of Pediatric Psychology maintains responsibility for this program and its contents.*