

## Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Course Series Description

### Interactive Neonatal Physiology

#### **Description and Goal:**

Goal statement: Through participation in this activity, the trainees will enhance their understanding of the science underlying neonatal physiology and disease processes.

Interactive Neonatal Physiology is an on line conference in which fellows and faculty discuss a clinical situation from a “background knowledge” point of view. The activity consists of two parts: an on line discussion group facilitated by a staff member and a didactic session used to summarize and complete the discussions. Although termed physiology, the scope of this activity includes not only physiology but other sciences, such as epidemiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, genetics, and others.

The structure of the activity is as follows: 1) a case is posted and opened for discussion (without identifiers); 2) the facilitator posts several questions pertinent to the case; 3) fellows read the questions, research the question and post responses; 4) fellows read responses, research the responses and post further comments. This process continues until a question is thoroughly discussed. Faculty may post additional questions, guide fellows’ reading and postings, and/or post responses to questions.

As the discussion progresses, it is expected to branch into related areas which are then discussed as illustrated above. In this way, several major topics will be covered during one case.

Following the discussion activity, each fellow will summarize a portion of the discussion, under the supervision of the facilitator. The summary will be presented in didactic form at the wrap-up conference (every other month after completion of the case discussions).

Cases will be posted every other month, except over summer months. Participation is expected by all fellows.

**Specific Objectives:** Through active participation and presentation in this conference, the participant will:

1. Participate in professional discussions and presentation regarding physiology and pathophysiology in neonatal-perinatal medicine.
2. Participate in a process of evaluating his/her understanding of information presented and developing methods of rapidly accessing and summarizing needed information.

#### **Competencies:**

The meeting will contribute to the development of competency in neonatal-perinatal medicine as described by the ACGME. Specific competencies addressed include:

1. Medical knowledge ...[and] the application of this knowledge to patient care

2. Practice-based learning and improvement ...[through] the appraisal and assimilation of scientific evidence
3. Interpersonal and communication skills

**Coordinator:**

John Cahill, M.D.

**Evaluation:**

The coordinator will keep records of topics presented and attendance. The coordinator will perform professionalism evaluations of fellows as part of the 360-degree evaluation process. Additionally, feedback after each case will be sought. The success of this approach to fellow education will also be evaluated through inservice and board exams.