

## 2012 APGAR Award

### Waldemar A. Carlo, MD, FAAP

The American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Perinatal Pediatrics presents the Virginia Apgar Award annually to an individual whose career has had a continuing influence on the well being of newborn infants. Waldemar A. Carlo, M.D. a household name in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine throughout the globe is such an individual. Over the past thirty years having played a leading role in all the advances in Neonatal Perinatal Medicine, he is the worthy recipient in 2012. Dr. Carlo is an accomplished investigator, superb educator, talented clinician and world leader in the field of Neonatal Perinatal Medicine.



Waldemar A Carlo, M.D. was born in Puerto Rico where he went to college, obtaining a B.Sc. in 1973 and an M.D. in 1977 from the University of Puerto Rico. He completed his Pediatric Residency in Puerto Rico and was appointed Chief Resident as well. He then commenced a neonatology fellowship at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, Cleveland, where it was immediately evident that he was headed for stardom. He was industrious and imaginative as well as clinically and technically superb. He was recruited to the faculty at the conclusion of his fellowship and soon established his research on neonatal pulmonary disorders. He helped to design and build a jet ventilator which, in a randomized trial, proved to be equivalent to the conventional ventilators. He was extremely productive publishing many innovative papers on control of breathing and airway muscles during the decade he was on faculty at Rainbow, but his career has soared since he was recruited as Division Chief to the University of Alabama.

He has now published over 200 peer reviewed manuscripts, many of which define current neonatal practice. These include, but are not limited to, the New England Journal of Medicine reports for which he served as the Principal Investigator from the NICHD Neonatal Research Network on the optimal oxygen saturation for extremely low birth weight immature infants and on the benefits of CPAP versus intubation and surfactant administration. These manuscripts are complemented by his report from the Global Network, where he is also a Principal Investigator, entitled "Newborn Care Training for Midwives and Neonatal and Perinatal Mortality Rates in a Developing Country" and the report in Pediatrics on behalf of the First Breath Study Group entitled "High Mortality Rates for Very Low Birth Weight Infants in Developing Countries despite Training". His publications are both broad and deep, covering the spectrum of respiratory disorders (with special emphasis on control of breathing, mechanical ventilation, permissive hypercapnea and broncho-pulmonary dysplasia) as well as in-depth studies of infections, jaundice, neuro-developmental disorders (both short and long term), nutrition, and retinopathy of prematurity as well as neonatal resuscitation. Furthermore, he has published extensively on epidemiology, quality improvement and detailed examination of stillbirths on a worldwide basis. In summary, he has been involved at the cutting edge of neonatal disorders and has played a significant role in establishing the current guidelines for care.

Dr. Carlo is the most valuable individual you can have on a committee. He brings high energy and enthusiasm as well as expertise and is the first to volunteer for any task, no matter how daunting. He is unafraid to tackle new areas, which he does with vigor, and he always delivers his assigned tasks on time and with distinction. He has served on many hospital and National committees, including chairing the Fetus and Newborn Committee, AAP Alabama Chapter. He has been a major contributor to the success of the National Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) was on NRP Steering Committee for a decade and was co-Chair of the NRP Steering Committee from 1998-2004. He was on the AAP Perinatal Section Executive Committee for a six year term and was instrumental in increasing membership of the Section, adjudicating the research and coordinating the awards as well as serving on the Committee on Practice which blended private practice of Neonatology with the academic community. Wally is a marvelous diplomat in this regard. He has chaired the Data Safety and Monitoring Committee for the Hypothermia Trial, and is a member of Expert Consultation on Community-based Approaches to Neonatal Sepsis on behalf of WHO and UNICEF. He has been appointed to the boards of Paidos and Ronald McDonald House charities. He has also served on numerous NIH study sections and advisory committees with a broad range of topics including SIDS, pulmonary hypertension, and infectious and neurologic disorders.

Wally Carlo is the old fashioned triple threat. He is a superb clinician with great judgment and technical skills. Remarkably, given all his responsibilities, he carries a full clinical load and whenever there is a vacancy in the schedule he is the first to volunteer. His research funding record is superb and as a member of both the NICHD Neonatal Research Network and the Global Network he has participated in or leads the defining trial in Neonatal Medicine. The extensive list of trainees, which includes junior faculty, fellows, residents and students that he has mentored, speaks volumes to his dedication to his profession and his abilities as an educator. Many of these individuals now occupy tenured positions at their various universities. Further evidence of his commitment to education is the many conferences in which he participates and the invited lectures he presents each year. His travel schedule is tiring just to read as he flits from the USA to Asia to Africa to Europe. He could be considered as an AMBASSADOR FOR NEONATOLOGY because that is the role he serves throughout the world. He is like the Eveready Energizer Bunny - he never runs out of energy or enthusiasm.

Wally Carlo is a wonderful, caring human being, loved and respected by all who come in contact with him. He is the ultimate family man and all four of his children are in the health care profession, as they have followed his example. He has greatly influenced the care and outcome of babies throughout the world. He is richly deserving of the Apgar Award.