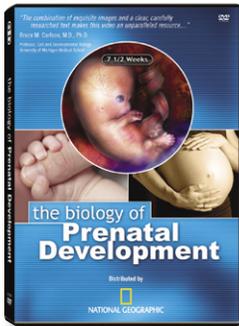


## Equipping Educators in Florida



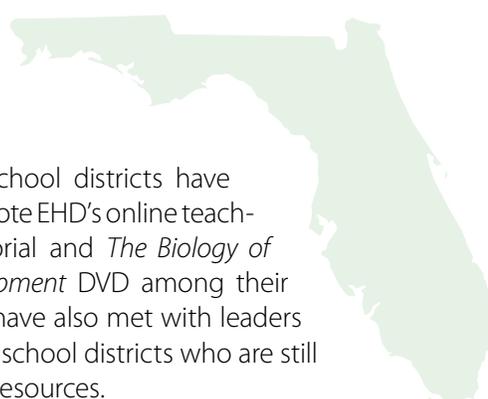
Starting this month, EHD is rewarding thousands of public school educators across Florida (middle and high school levels) who complete our free online teacher-training program, with a free copy of *The Biology of Prenatal Development* DVD. This is our first statewide effort to promote prenatal development-based education and equip teachers with our award-winning educational resources.

### Steps to Success

First, we put our DVD on the shelves of nearly all 450 general circulation public libraries in Florida. As a result of these donations, all Florida residents can learn about prenatal development firsthand.

Then we introduced our teacher-training program to education leaders in all 67 counties in Florida (where each county represents one school district), opening doors to meetings with key education leaders across the state.

So far, seven school districts have agreed to promote EHD's online teacher training tutorial and *The Biology of Prenatal Development* DVD among their educators. We have also met with leaders of other Florida school districts who are still evaluating our resources.



*continued on page 4*

### Did You Know?

Researchers report that children whose mothers smoked during pregnancy are three times more likely to start smoking by age 14.

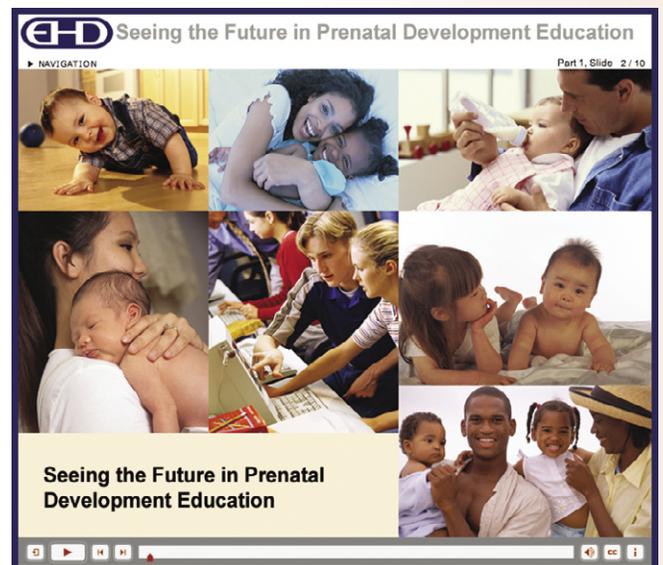


SOURCE: Abdullah Al Mamun et al. Does maternal smoking during pregnancy predict the smoking patterns of young adult offspring? A birth cohort study. *Tobacco Control* 2006;15:452-457.

The abstract can be found on the *Tobacco Control* website at <http://tc.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/15/6/452>. For more information, visit <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15922823/>.

## Online Training—Anytime

How do you deliver free, professional-quality educational resources to millions of teachers—with a nonprofit budget? This month, EHD is answering this question with the launch of our new online teacher-training tutorial entitled, "Seeing the Future in Prenatal Development Education." This exciting addition to EHD's arsenal of free web-based curricular resources is now available to all educators who register with our website. It is the first in a series of free online tutorials under development.



In just over an hour, teachers learn about the vital relationship between prenatal health and lifelong health, and discover how they are uniquely positioned to impact public health from the classroom. The tutorial also introduces *The Biology of Prenatal Development* DVD and demonstrates how to use our free online content generators to create custom resources for various learning levels and subjects.

So far, our tutorial is accredited by the state of Texas and some Florida counties for continuing professional education credit to satisfy teacher licensing requirements. We are confident that as awareness of the course becomes widespread, other states and school districts will grant accreditation as well.

The inspiration to develop an online tutorial stemmed from the considerable success of our live presentations at ten statewide and national educator conferences in 2006, which convinced educators of the vital importance

*continued on page 5*

## The Insider

A newsletter from The Endowment for Human Development, Inc.

## Mission Statement

The Endowment for Human Development (EHD) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health science education and public health.

EHD equips educators, clinicians, and governments to help everyone appreciate, apply, and communicate the science of health and human development.

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## From the President



Brian J. Stillwell, MD

Welcome to *The Insider*, our new monthly newsletter designed to keep you up to date about EHD's progress in bringing the many benefits of prenatal development-based education to a needy world. Our achievements in 2006 (see sidebar) are opening up many exciting opportunities, which you will learn about in this and future issues.

## The Link

A growing body of medical evidence is linking embryonic and fetal health with lifelong health in ways that might surprise you. For instance, did you know that prenatal tobacco exposure reportedly increases the risk of long-term obesity starting in childhood? Or, did you know that children with impaired prenatal growth appear to have a higher risk of suffering a heart attack in middle age? Suffice it to say, this research and its implications are much more important than most of us realize, yet are relatively unknown to almost everyone. We intend to change that.

How do we inspire educators across the country and around the world to teach this and other vital information related to early human development?

## The Almost Perfect Storm

We have combined the tremendous advances in DVD, Internet, and prenatal imaging technologies, with the latest medical research to create award-winning

teaching tools approved by educators, and capable of transforming everyone's understanding of the science of early human development and the connection between prenatal and lifelong health.

Nearly every education leader to whom we have introduced our resources has embraced them. When we trained more than 2,300 public school educators last year at local, state, and national conferences, they were impressed by the quality, scientific accuracy, and broad applicability of our materials, and responded with many public endorsements.

Automating this tried and tested teacher-training program on our website has the potential to equip hundreds or even thousands of educators every day with the knowledge, teaching tools, and motivation they need to reach the next generation (see cover).

All of these areas of progress are now converging to create a "perfect storm"—an unprecedented opportunity to equip

*continued on page 5*

## Other 2006 Progress

**Attracted** a 12-fold increase in traffic to ehd.org.

**Received** a "Platinum Remi" award for our website at the Houston International Film Festival.

**Developed** advanced, web-based, content-generation tools that allow educators registered with ehd.org to quickly build custom fact sheets, prenatal development timelines, DVD outlines, and companion quizzes.

**Addressed** 350 health technology educators gathered from around the U.S. at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Health Science Curriculum conference in Oklahoma City.

**Earned** public endorsements of our DVD, website, and teacher-training presentations from scores of educators around the country.

## Meet Our Board of Advisors: Introducing Ona Marie Faye-Petersen, MD



Dr. Ona Marie Faye-Petersen is a recognized expert in perinatal pathology. In addition to researching embryofetal and placental diseases, she is an associate professor of pathology, with a joint appointment in obstetrics & gynecology, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

Among the many highlights of her career, Ona believes her most significant contribution was establishing the Microdissection Lab at UAB, a perinatal pathology reference laboratory, and one of only a handful of this kind of facility in North America. Her lab studies placentas from complicated pregnancies and the fetal remains of failed pregnancies, to try to understand the reasons for pregnancy loss, in part to give parents who have lost their baby an explanation, and in part to advise them as to whether a complication is likely to recur in future pregnancies.

Ona's interest in the human body began as early as age six, when she developed a curiosity and understanding of balance, movement, and muscle control through ballet lessons. The ballet exercises made her very aware of the need for her brain to tell her muscles to assume positions that were neither natural nor comfortable.

Meanwhile, Ona pursued another interest, detecting counterfeit money. She studied currency and coins, read related books, and visited the Denver mint to prepare for a career in the Secret Service detecting counterfeit money. When she was nine years old though, women were not yet allowed to join the Secret Service. In her disappointment, she started considering an alternative line of work, and her growing interest in understanding how the human body works was her guide.

Ona recently told EHD that at that point in her life she very briefly considered becoming a nurse but thought, "Many girls are nurses; I want to be something that most girls aren't, I want to know and do more." That day she decided, "I'll be a doctor." That decision never changed.

She spent hours studying encyclopedias with transparencies of the various human body systems. Eventually

it was time for some hands-on experience. At age 12, Ona got a [deceased] whole chicken from a butcher, plucked it, and took it completely apart. With the help of her mother she bleached the bones, then spent a great deal of time by herself reassembling the skeleton. Once complete, the chicken stood upright.

Staying true to her goals, Ona ultimately received a BA in biology, chemistry, and philosophy from the University of Colorado, and an MD from the University of Colorado Medical School. She completed her residency in pathology at Denver Presbyterian Hospital, where she served as chief resident her senior year. In addition, she completed one-year fellowships in New York City, in surgical pathology and pediatric pathology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Mount Sinai Medical Center, respectively.

**"The placenta has been called the diary of a pregnancy, so study of the placenta and its development and function gives insights into the causes and mechanisms resulting in poor fetal growth and development, as well as poor pregnancy and neonatal outcomes."**

**Ona Marie Faye-Petersen, MD**  
<http://www.health.uab.edu/default.aspx?pid=50495>

Today, Ona not only teaches doctors in training at many levels, but lectures at many local, national, and international conferences. In 2002, she received the Distinguished Colleague Award from the Society for Pediatric Pathology and has received teaching awards for excellence as a medical school lecturer.

She has participated in several National Institutes of Health (NIH) supported studies investigating the placental features that help explain,

or show cause or correlation between, pathologic development of preterm, premature rupture of membranes, intrauterine infections, and adverse perinatal outcomes.

Ona has also established a database of more than 650 cases of congenital heart disease to support multidisciplinary research and educational projects involving cardiovascular malformations.

Having spent much of her professional life studying complicated or failed pregnancies, Ona urges high school students to educate themselves about the risk factors and lifestyle choices that are associated with poor pregnancy outcomes. She further recommends that young people contemplating pregnancy act months in advance to eat healthy diets, take vitamins, get

screened for common potentially harmful infections or illnesses (such as diabetes), and avoid alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful drugs. (And, whenever possible, to dance.)



## Teacher's Lounge at ehd.org

Educators, we invite you to complete the free registration process at ehd.org and visit our new Teacher's Lounge. Here you can meet our director of education, quickly access many of our learning resources, take our tutorial, print a certificate of completion, stay informed about what's new at

EHD, and update your personal information. You can also see a summary of your saved searches, go to your personalized My Searches page to launch new searches, and read what people are saying about our DVD, website, and teacher-training program. It all begins in the lounge, where you're always welcome!

## Teacher's Lounge

### Welcome!



Alika Hope Despotopoulos  
Meet EHD's Director of  
Education

### Resources

- [Custom Resource Generators](#)
- [Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, 1993-2005](#)

### Teacher Training Tutorial "Seeing the Future in Prenatal Development Education" **Now Playing!**

In just one hour, learn about the vital link between prenatal and lifelong health, and how to use EHD's extensive array of free resources to impact your students. [Learn more!](#)

### Equipping Florida Educators

EHD would like to donate a copy of The Biology of Prenatal Development DVD, while supplies last, to qualified educators in Florida that complete our free, online teacher-training tutorial. [Learn more!](#)

### Equipping Educators in Every State

EHD is actively seeking funds to offer educators around the country the same program we are offering Florida educators (see above). [Learn more!](#)

### What Educators say about *The Biology of Prenatal Development DVD*

"The DVD is excellent. A wonderful teaching tool not

### Tutorial Certificate

[Available here](#)

### Edit your profile

#### My Searches

Saved searches: **6**

Next expiration: **Feb 15**

### Talk to us

We want your feedback.

### Tell a colleague

Email your colleagues about EHD's helpful resources.

### Join the Effort

If you share our vision of

## Equipping Educators (continued from page 1)

Those districts agreeing to promote our donation program among their educators will receive two DVDs for each of their secondary school libraries.

Initially we met with education leaders face to face, but soon transitioned to more economical and efficient on-line meetings/conference calls. This approach allows us to meet with many more Florida leaders than would be possible with face-to-face meetings.

Our outreach to Florida educators is not confined to school districts. We are also introducing ourselves to leaders in the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Department of Health, and state education associations.

### Just the Beginning

We are excited about introducing hundreds of thousands of educators across the U.S. and Canada to our prenatal development-based education resources.

## From the President (continued from page 2)

every educator and to prepare every student for a healthy future by giving them a visual appreciation of prenatal development, impressing upon them the vital importance of preconceptional and prenatal health, and describing the lifelong consequences that may follow the use of harmful substances during pregnancy.

The catalyst needed to perfect this storm is adequate funding to engage and equip educators throughout the US, Canada, and beyond. Toward this end, one of our major goals for 2007 is to engage individuals, corporations, foundations, and governments who will help fund this important mission.

## You're Invited

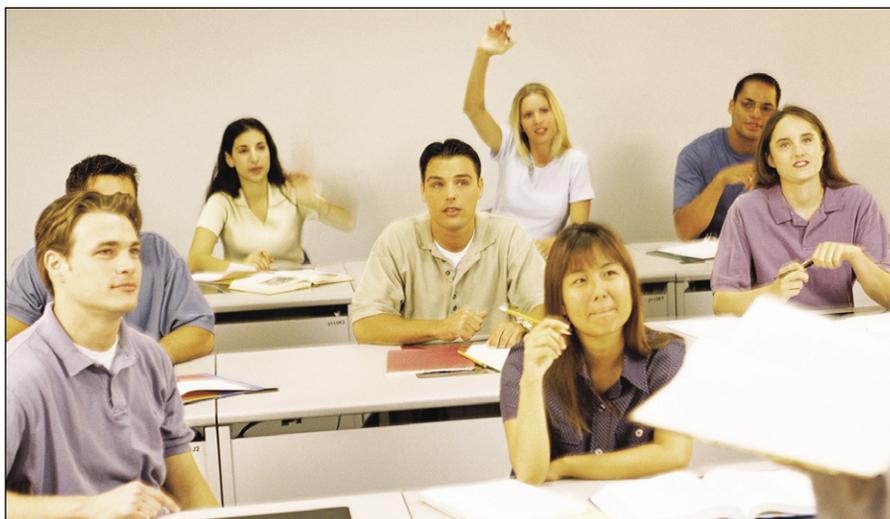
Whether you are an education leader, a conference attendee, a long-time supporter, or someone just learning about EHD, we invite you to read our monthly newsletter and visit our website to learn more about saving lives and improving the health of generations through prenatal development-based education.

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## Online Training (continued from page 1)

of prenatal development education and motivated them to bring it to the classroom.

So far, our online presentations with education leaders have elicited the same enthusiasm that we saw at our live presentations. Though connecting with teachers at live conferences is ideal, it is neither a cost-effective nor practical approach for providing free, accessible teacher training for millions of educators around the globe. With our new capability, we are no longer constrained to reaching lim-



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ited numbers of teachers, one venue at a time. Our online tutorial is available to all teachers, all the time.

In addition, the tutorial also plays a major role in EHD's new DVD donation program. In states where funding is available, EHD will provide a free DVD to each eligible educator who completes the online training. This strategy ensures that educators not only obtain the DVD, but know how to use it effectively. A growing number of Florida educators are now taking advantage of this program.

We are excited to see how providing educators around the globe with these valuable resources will impact public health for generations to come. In this new year, we look forward to countless educators "Seeing the Future in Prenatal Development Education" from the comfort of their own homes and schools.