



ICHA

INSTITUTE FOR CHILD
HEALTHCARE AFRICA

Modeling Pediatrics For Tomorrow



TINY FEET, BIG STEPS 2026 NEONATOLOGY CONFERENCE

Advancing Care of Critically Ill and Premature
Babies in Africa

Date: 11 - 15 May 2026
Arusha, Tanzania



11 May 2026

Dear TFBS 2026 participants,

Welcome to the 6th annual ***Tiny Feet, Big Steps: Advancing Care of Critically Ill and Premature Babies in Africa*** (TFBS 2026) Neonatology Conference. As we gather, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each of you joining us in this unique neonatology training conference!

TFBS 2026 is dedicated to promoting neonatology training in Africa. Your presence and contributions are vital. As in previous years, we host physicians and nurses from countries, institutions and hospitals across the African continent and globe. We all share a deep desire to improve neonatal care for the youngest and most vulnerable among us—and we are here to learn and encourage each other, adopt new ideas and skills... and abandon old hospital practices that do not help babies. It is a journey that requires a integrity and the courage to change.

The academic program this year has over 75 lectures and interactive skills workshops that span the spectrum of neonatology. We have 52 international instructors that have come to help teach, mentor, and provide you with support. Over the next 5 days, you will be exposed to new innovations, evidence-based protocols, foundational lectures, skills and interactive workshops. This is offered for by our teaching team, for you to take back and implement in your hospital or place of work.

Importantly, TFBS 2026 emphasizes the co-training of doctors and nurses. This union of doctors and nurses, learning together, is fundamental to changing NICU culture and developing a competent team that can improve outcomes in Africa through working together with humility and shared understanding of best practices.

As we spend the week together, our instructors are honored to play a small part in the growth of neonatal knowledge and capacity building that is happening across the African continent. It has been inspiring to witness. Premature and sick babies can survive, thrive, and achieve their full potential. It begins with ***every breath counts, no matter how small.***

Thank you for your dedication and willingness to be part of this African neonatology training experience—TFBS 2026.

My prayer is that your NICU becomes a living place where heaven bends to meet human frailty.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen J. Swanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Stephen J. Swanson, MD, DTM&H, FAAP
Founder Institute for Child Healthcare Africa (ICHA)
Founder and Chair, Tiny Feet Big Steps Neonatology Conference



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME NURSE TRACK



DAY 1 MONDAY, MAY 11	Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location		
	7:45 - 8:00	<i>REGISTRATION</i>		Main Ballroom		
	8:00 - 8:30	Welcome				
	8:30 - 9:00	Non-Invasive Respiratory Support: CPAP and NIPPV Use in Africa	Marando John			
	9:00 - 9:20	KMC & the Local Experience				
	WELCOME	Opening Prayer Daudi Msseemmaa, ELCA Representative, East Africa Dr. Saleh Mwinchete Director of Clinical Service Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre – JKCI	Health Officers District & Regional Medical Office Arusha Region, Tanzania			
	9:20 - 9:40					
	9:45 - 10:05	Guest of Honor Dr Tina Chisenga Acting Director of Programs East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC)				
	10:05 - 10:25	Vote of Thanks by Institute for Child Healthcare Africa (ICHA) Photos				
	10:30 - 11:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK				
	11:15 - 12:00	TFBS Opening Lecture: NICU: People, Practices, Integrity, and Courage			Swanson	
	13:15 - 14:30	LUNCH				
	AFTERNOON SESSIONS	Skills Workshops			Instructor	Location
		CPAP Basics			Various	Tent #1
Nursing Group A: 12:15 - 13:15						
Nursing Group B: 14:30 - 15:30						
Nursing Group C: 15:45 - 16:45		Various	Tent #2			
Delivery Room Stabilization:						
Nursing Group B: 12:15 - 13:15						
Nursing Group C: 14:30 - 15:30		Various	Tent #3			
Nursing Group A: 16:30 - 17:30						
Common Procedures:						
Nursing Group C: 12:15 - 13:15		Various	Tent #3			
Nursing Group A: 14:30 - 15:30						
Nursing Group B: 15:45 - 16:45						



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME PHYSICIAN TRACK



DAY 1	MONDAY, MAY 11	Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location		
		7:45 - 8:00	<i>REGISTRATION</i>			Main Ballroom	
		8:00 - 8:30	Welcome				
		8:30 - 9:00	Non-Invasive Respiratory Support: CPAP and NIPPV Use in Africa	Marando John			
		9:00 - 9:20	KMC & the Local Experience	Uriyo			
		WELCOME 9:20 - 9:40	Opening Prayer Daudi Msseemmaa, ELCA Representative, East Africa Dr. Saleh Mwinchete Director of Clinical Service Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre – JKCI	Health Officers District & Regional Medical Office Arusha Region, Tanzania			
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		10:05 - 10:25	Vote of Thanks by Institute for Child Healthcare Africa (ICHA) Photos				
		10:30 - 11:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK				
		11:15 - 12:00	TFBS Opening Lecture: NICU: People, Practices, Integrity, and Courage	Swanson			
		12:10 - 12:30	Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension	Zuechner			
		<i>ANNOUNCEMENTS</i>					
		12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH				
		AFTERNOON SESSIONS	Skills Workshops (All Physicians Attend except POCUS trainees)		Instructor		Location
CPAP Skills Workstations for Physicians	14:00 - 14:50		Various	Quiver - Mpingo			
	15:00 - 15:50						
	16:00 - 16:50						
SALSA Surfactant Administration via Laryngeal Supraglottic Airway	14:00 - 14:50		Guthrie	Acacia - Mopane			
	15:00 - 15:50						
	16:00 - 16:50						
Intubation Skills	14:00 - 14:50		Slusher Martinez Msuya	Baobab 2			
	15:00 - 15:50						
	16:00 - 16:50						
Sustainable & Scalable NICU Follow-up Programs	16:00 - 16:50	Bora	Kigelia				
Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) TRAINING	POCUS Skills Workshop: Introduction to POCUS	17:00 - 18:00	John Nalitolela Sleeth Zuechner	Kigelia			



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

NURSE TRACK



DAY 2 TUESDAY, MAY 12	Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location
	7:45 - 8:00	<i>KAHOOTS</i>		Main Ballroom
	8:00 - 8:30	Breathless at Birth: Conquering RDS	Guthrie	
	8:30 - 9:00	Acute Bilirubin Encephalopathy/Kernicterus Spectrum Disorders	Slusher	
	9:00 - 9:20	PICTERUS/ Goal 3	Diaz	
	9:20 - 9:40	Cardiology Emergencies	Zuechner	
	9:45 - 10:05	Intraventricular Hemorrhage (IVH)	Patil	
	10:05 - 10:25	The Journey Continues: Supporting NICU Graduates Through Follow-Up Care	Bora	
	10:30 - 11:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		
		Nursing Lectures	Instructor	
11:15 - 11:45	Nutrition Overview	Swanson		
11:45 - 12:15	Feeding Intolerance & Growth Failure	Cessna		
13:15 - 14:30	LUNCH			
AFTERNOON SESSIONS		Skills Workshops	Instructor	Location
		CPAP Assembly: Nursing Group A: 12:15 - 13:15 Nursing Group B: 14:30 - 15:30 Nursing Group C: 15:45 - 16:45	Various	Quiver - Mpingo
		Neurodevelopmental Follow-Up Care: Nursing Group B: 12:15 - 13:15 Nursing Group C: 14:30 - 15:30 Nursing Group A: 15:45 - 16:45	Bora	Acacia 12:15 - 13:15 Tent #3 14:30 - 15:30 15:45 - 16:45
		Fortification & Growth: Nursing Group C: 12:15 - 13:15 Nursing Group A: 14:30 - 15:30 Nursing Group B: 15:45 - 16:45	Various	Baobab 2



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME PHYSICIAN TRACK



DAY 2
TUESDAY, MAY 12

Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location	
7:45 - 8:00	<i>KAHOOTS</i>		Main Ballroom	
8:00 - 8:30	Breathless at Birth: Conquering RDS	Guthrie		
8:30 - 9:00	Acute Bilirubin Encephalopathy/Kernicterus Spectrum Disorders	Slusher		
9:00 - 9:20	PICTERUS/ Goal 3	Diaz		
9:20 - 9:45	Cardiology Emergencies	Zuechner		
9:45 - 10:05	Intraventricular Hemorrhage (IVH)	Patil		
10:05 - 10:25	The Journey Continues: Supporting NICU Graduates Through Follow-Up Care	Bora		
10:30 - 11:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK			
	Physicians Skills Workshops	Instructor	Location	
11:15 - 12:00	UVC Placement	Slusher	Tent #1	
12:00 - 12:45				
11:15 - 12:00	Lactation Essentials	Padbiri	Tent #2	
12:00 - 12:45				
11:15 - 12:00	Emergencies: Hypoglycemia	Odongkara	Tent #3	
12:00 - 12:45				
12:45 - 14:00	LUNCH			
AFTERNOON SESSIONS	Skills Workshops		Instructor	Location
	Research and QI Showcase #1	14:00 - 14:50	Research Mentorship Committee	Acacia - Mopane
	Research and QI Showcase #2	15:00 - 15:50		
	Severe Hypernatremic Dehydration Management	14:00 - 14:50	Musiime	Tent #1
		15:00 - 15:50		
	Virtual White Coat - Your AI Ally	14:00 - 14:50	Guthrie	Kigelia
		15:00 - 15:50		
	Simulation and Debriefing as QI	16:00 - 16:50	Patil	Tent #2
	Clinical Decision Making Scenarios	16:00 - 16:50	Hadfield Naburi Tooke	Acacia - Mopane
	Introduction to Principles & Practices of Research	16:00 - 16:50	Fischer	Kigelia
Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) TRAINING	POCUS PRACTICE SESSION	15:00 - 17:30	John Nalitolela Sleeth Zuechner	APMC CENTRE (OFF SITE)



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

NURSE TRACK



DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, MAY 13	Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location
	7:45 - 8:00	<i>SPONSORS</i>		Main Ballroom
	8:00 - 8:30	Born Too Soon: Dos and Don'ts of Resuscitating the Premie	Brobby	
	8:30 - 9:00	Zombies & Genies	Tooke	
	9:00 - 9:20	Neonatal Skin Physiology, Injury and Prevention	Patil	
	9:20 - 9:40	Steroid use in the NICU	Tooke	
	9:45 - 10:05	Trauma Informed Care in the NICU	Padbiri	
	10:05 - 10:30	TFBS Conference Photos		
	10:30 - 11:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		
		Nursing Lectures	Instructor	
11:15 - 11:45	Newborn Exam	Sziy		
11:45 - 12:15	Starting a QI Project	Sleeth		
12:15 - 12:45	Phototherapy Basics	Mushi		
12:45 - 13:15	Lactation Basics	Padbiri		
13:15 - 14:30	LUNCH			
AFTERNOON SESSIONS	Skills Workshops		Instructor	Location
	Feeding Challenges: Nursing Group 1: 14:30 - 15:30 Nursing Group 2: 15:30 - 16:30		Various	Acacia - Mopane
	Bundling & Positioning: Nursing Group 2: 14:30 - 15:30 Nursing Group 1: 15:30 - 16:30		Various	Tent #1,2
	RESEARCH POSTER EXHIBITION TFBS 2026 BANQUET - Gran Meliá		Courtyard Main Ballroom	



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME PHYSICIAN TRACK



DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location	
7:45 - 8:00	<i>SPONSORS</i>			
8:00 - 8:30	Born Too Soon: Dos and Don'ts of Resuscitating the Premie	Brobby	Main Ballroom	
8:30 - 9:00	Zombies & Genies	Tooke		
9:00 - 9:20	Neonatal Skin Physiology, Injury and Prevention	Patil		
9:20 - 9:40	Steroid use in the NICU	Tooke		
9:45 - 10:05	Trauma Informed Care in the NICU	Padbiri		
10:05 - 10:30	TFBS Conference Photos			Outdoors
10:30 - 11:15 COFFEE/TEA BREAK				
Physicians Skills Workshops				
11:15 - 12:00	Neonatal Hyperglycemia	Odongkara	Kigelia	
12:00 - 12:45				
11:15 - 12:00	Emergencies: Pneumothorax & Chest Tube insertion	Guthrie Slusher	Quiver - Mpingo	
12:00 - 12:45				
11:15 - 12:00	Neuroprotective Pain Management	Patil	Acacia - Mopane	
12:00 - 12:45				
12:45 - 14:00 LUNCH				
AFTERNOON SESSIONS	Skills Workshops		Instructor	Location
	Advanced Resuscitation	14:00 - 14:50	Various	Quiver - Mpingo
		15:00 - 15:50		
	Fluids, Feeding, Fortification Protocols for a NICU	14:00 - 14:50	Swanson	Main Ballroom
		15:00 - 15:50		
	Effective Teaching	15:00 - 15:50	Fischer	Kigelia
	Sustainable & Scalable NICU Follow-up Programs	16:00 - 16:50	Bora	Tent #3
	Introduction to Principles & Practices of Research	16:00 - 16:50	Fischer	Quiver - Mpingo
	Tiny Patients, Massive Questions - Ethics in Neonatology	16:00 - 16:50	Tooke Brobby	Kigelia
	18:00 - 22:00 RESEARCH POSTER EXHIBITION TFBS 2026 BANQUET - Gran Meliá			Courtyard Main Ballroom



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

NURSE TRACK



		Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location		
DAY 4	THURSDAY, MAY 14	7:45 - 8:00	<i>KAHOOTS</i>		Main Ballroom		
		8:00 - 8:30	Neurosurgical Infants	Rabiel			
		8:30 - 9:00	Surgical NICU Emergencies	Harling			
		9:00 - 9:20	Oxygen Toxicity & Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)	Nakibuuka			
		9:20 - 9:40	ROP: Can We Prevent an Epidemic of Blindness in Africa?	Nakibuuka			
		9:45 - 10:30	NICU Families Share their Stories				
		10:30 - 11:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK				
			Nursing Lectures	Instructor			
		11:15 - 11:45	Neuroprotection of the Neonate	Musiime			
		11:45 - 12:15	RDS vs Sepsis	Swanson			
		12:15 - 13:30	LUNCH				
		AFTERNOON SESSIONS		Skills Workshops		Instructor	Location
				IV Fluids: Nursing Group 1: 13:45 - 14:45 Nursing Group 2: 14:45 - 16:00		Various	Acacia - Mopane
				Advanced Resuscitation: Nursing Group 2: 13:45 - 14:45 Nursing Group 1: 14:45 - 16:00		Various	Quiver - Mpingo
	Kahoots for Nurses 16:45 - 17:30		Everyone	Main Ballroom			



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME PHYSICIAN TRACK



DAY 4 THURSDAY, MAY 14

Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location	
7:45 - 8:00	<i>KAHOOTS</i>		Main Ballroom	
8:00 - 8:30	Neurosurgical Infants	Rabiel		
8:30 - 9:00	Surgical NICU Emergencies	Harling		
9:00 - 9:20	Oxygen Toxicity & Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)	Nakibuuka		
9:20 - 9:40	ROP: Can We Prevent an Epidemic of Blindness in Africa?	Nakibuuka		
9:45 - 10:30	NICU Families Share their Stories			
10:30 - 11:15 COFFEE/TEA BREAK				
Physicians Skills Workshops				
11:15 - 12:00	Care of the Post-Op Surgical & NeuroSurgical Baby	Harling Rabiel	Acacia - Mopane	
12:00 - 12:45				
11:15 - 12:00	Emergencies: Severe Jaundice & Double Exchange Transfusion	Msuya Slusher	Quiver - Mpingo	
12:00 - 12:45				
11:15 - 12:00	Understanding Blood Gases	Guthrie	Kigelia	
12:00 - 12:45				
ANNOUNCEMENTS				
12:45 - 14:00 LUNCH				
AFTERNOON SESSIONS	Skills Workshops	Time	Instructor	Location
	Effective Teaching	14:00 - 14:50	Fischer	Kigelia
	Sustainable & Scalable Follow-up NICU programs	14:00 - 14:50	Bora	Tent #3
	Mechanical Ventilation Basics	14:00 - 14:50	Guthrie Patil Tooke	Tent #1
		15:00 - 15:50		
	Sodium Supplementation in Preterm Infants	14:00 - 14:50	Msuya Swanson	Tent #2
		15:00 - 15:50		
		16:00 - 16:50		
	Introduction to Principles & Practices of Research	15:00 - 15:50	Fischer	Kigelia
	Simulation & Debriefing as QI	16:00 - 16:50	Patil	Tent #3
	Hypernatremic Dehydration	16:00 - 16:50	Musiime	Kigelia
	Tiny Patients, Massive Questions	16:00 - 16:50	Tooke Brobby	Tent #1
Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) TRAINING	POCUS PRACTICE SESSION #3	15:00 - 17:30	John Nalitolela Sleeth Zuechner	APMC Centre (OFF SITE)



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME NURSE TRACK



		Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location	
DAY 5	FRIDAY, MAY 15	7:45 - 8:00	<i>ANNOUNCEMENTS</i>		Main Ballroom	
		8:00 - 8:30	Final Kahoots	Hadfield John		
		8:30 - 9:00	Birth Asphyxia	Naburi		
		9:00 - 9:25	Infection Prevention Skit	Hollywood		
		9:25 - 9:45	Infection Prevention & Control	Musiime		
		9:50 - 10:10	Post-Op Care of Neonate: Do's & Don'ts	Harling		
		10:10 - 10:30	Top 2 Abstract Presentations	QI Research Committee		
		10:30 - 11:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK			
		11:15 - 12:10	Panel Discussion: Working with Your Hospital Admin & Government			
		12:10 - 12:25	High Impact Interventions: Optimal Cord Clamping	Guthrie		
12:25 - 12:45	Closing Reflections	Marando				
		13:00 - 14:15	LUNCH			
AFTERNOON SESSIONS			Skills Workshops	Instructor	Location	
			The ELBW Infant - the First 72hrs: Nursing Group 1: 14:15 - 15:00 Nursing Group 2: 15:00 - 15:45	Various	Acacia - Mopane	
			Glucose Abnormalities & Insulin Basics: Nursing Group 2: 14:15 - 15:00 Nursing Group 1: 15:00 - 15:45	Various	Tent #1, 2	
	16:00 - 17:00	TFBS Certificates Issued		Main Ballroom		



TFBS 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME PHYSICIAN TRACK



DAY 5 FRIDAY, MAY 15	Time	Lecture	Speaker	Location		
	7:45 - 8:00	<i>ANNOUNCEMENTS</i>		Main Ballroom		
	8:00 - 8:30	Final Kahoots	Hadfield John			
	8:30 - 9:00	Birth Asphyxia	Naburi			
	9:00 - 9:25	Infection Prevention Skit	Hollywood			
	9:25 - 9:45	Infection Prevention & Control	Musiime			
	9:45 - 10:10	Post-Op Care of Neonate: Do's & Don'ts	Harling			
	10:10 - 10:30	Top 2 Abstract Presentations	QI Research Committee			
	10:30 - 11:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK				
	11:15- 12:10	Panel Discussion: Working with Your Hospital Admin & Government				
	12:10- 12:25	High Impact Interventions: Optimal Cord Clamping	Guthrie			
	12:25- 12:45	Closing Reflections	Marando			
	12:45 - 14:00	LUNCH				
	AFTERNOON SESSIONS	Skills Workshops	Time		Instructor	Location
		Innovative Equipment Solutions	14:00 - 14:50		Sleeth Slusher	Quiver
Effective Teaching		14:00 - 14:50	Fischer		Mpingo	
Clinical Decision Making Scenarios		14:00 - 14:50	Hadfield Naburi Tooke	Kigelia		
14:45- 16:00	All for Won: Physician Team Challenge		Brobbly Hadfield Tooke	Main Ballroom		
16:00- 17:00	TFBS Certificates Issued		Main Ballroom			